





## OVERSEAS NEWS

## MX experts doubt U.S. invulnerability to Soviet strike

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

THERE is no practical way to make a large, land-based, nuclear missile system invulnerable to a Soviet first strike, according to a special bi-partisan committee appointed by President Ronald Reagan to study deployment of the controversial MX missile.

The committee's conclusion may force the President to abandon the "window of vulnerability" doctrine, which alleges that the Soviet Union could be tempted to attack or threaten the U.S. until the U.S. has a land-based missile system able to survive a nuclear strike. Closure of this window of vulnerability was the main purpose in developing the MX and also one of the main military tasks Mr Reagan set himself in the 1980 election campaign.

The MX committee's main practical recommendation—that the MX should be placed in silos now occupied by Minuteman missiles, which are alleged to be obsolete—will be formally presented to the President and Congress on Monday and has been widely leaked. Deployment of the MX should be combined with a

crash programme to develop a small, mobile missile nicknamed "Midgetman", the committee is believed to have suggested.

However, according to senators who have been briefed by Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the MX committee's chairman, the reasoning behind this recommendation is so much at odds with the original rationale for the whole MX programme that congressional funds for the new missile could well be in doubt. Refusal of MX money would deliver a crushing blow to Mr Reagan's prestige after the vote this week in the Senate Budget Committee to cut the Administration's defence budget.

If Mr Reagan were to concede either that a window of vulnerability does not exist, or that the MX were unable to close it, Congress would be very reluctant to vote the \$20bn required to deploy 100 MX missiles in existing Minuteman silos, according to Congressional officials. Under the Scowcroft committee's recommendation, these missiles would be in place for only three or four years before they in turn were displaced by the "Midgetman", which would be much harder for Soviet forces to hit because of its mobility.

## Beach Boys row rocks Washington

Mr James Watt, U.S. Interior Secretary, and bogyman of American liberals and environmentalists, has conceded defeat in the most bizarre political controversy to "rock" Washington, during the Reagan Administration.

He has accepted that the Beach Boys rock group of 1960s fame is not "un-American".

Mr Watt had decided to ban rock groups from this year's July 4 Independence Day festivities on the grassy Mall in the centre of Washington.

He did so, claiming that rock groups had in the past attracted the "wrong element". Instead, he said, he wanted "patriotic, family-oriented entertainment" to be laid on by the U.S. Army Blues Band and middle-aged Las Vegas entertainer Wayne Newton.

Then Mrs Nancy Reagan called him to say that both she and her children were Beach Boys fans.

Vice-President George Bush rallied to the group's support, and the President presented Mr Watt with a sculpture of a foot with a bullet hole, to symbolise Mr Watt's success in shooting himself in the foot.

Mr Watt backed down. He will now invite the Beach Boys — and Wayne Newton

THE CROWD, chanting "Bernie, Bernie," swarmed into the Chicago street, surrounding the candidate's car and cheering. Little could be seen of Mr Bernard Epton, candidate for Mayor, just his shiny pate and scraggy white beard as he was swept into a jammed discotheque by police escorts, aides and camera crews.

The scene is common enough in an American election campaign, especially in the traditionally turbulent politics of Chicago. Yet Mr Epton is a Republican, in a city dominated for more than half a century by Democrats, and it is mainly because his opponent is black that he has emerged as a serious contender for Mayor.

When Chicago voters go to the polls next week they will end one of the most divisive campaigns in the city's history. The contest has completely polarised black and white voters, yet the issues involved go well beyond the implications of racialism.

Mr Harold Washington, the black Democratic candidate, was virtually unknown to whites outside his congressional area before he won a bitter three-way primary against the incumbent, Mayor Jane Byrne, and Mr Richard Daley, son of the late long-serving mayor who preceded her. Blacks, who now comprise more than 40 per cent of the electorate, registered to vote in record numbers.

When Mr Washington appeared on the campaign platform, he had at his side black activists like the Rev Jesse Jackson, whose cries of "We want it all" struck fear into the hearts of thousands of Chicago's whites.

Chicago has long been governed by an alliance of its ethnic groups, synthesised through the Democratic Party machine. Ward politics have thrived under the Democrats through the judicious distribution of municipal jobs to party workers and city contracts to the machine's allies.

Now the system is being threatened by a Democrat, and a black Democrat at that. Several ward bosses are backing Mr Epton because they believe he will do less harm to the machine.

A liberal Republican, Mr Epton is scarcely suited to the role of "great white hope". The Jewish millionaire represented one of the city's few racially mixed neighbourhoods in the Illinois legislature for 14 years. He speaks proudly of taking his son to march in a demonstration of the Rev Martin Luther King Jr, the civil rights leader.

Harold Washington's colour is not the issue in this campaign, Mr Epton says constantly. "Integrity is the issue." In a state where corruption convictions seem an everyday affair, Mr Epton has portrayed

Nancy Dunne, recently in Illinois, reports on a turbulent election campaign

## Black and white clash polarises Chicago



Mr Harold Washington (left) and Mr Bernard Epton, candidates in the Chicago mayoral elections, have figured in one of the most divisive campaigns in the city's history.

his opponent (who spent one month in jail) as just another "Chicago crook".

The election outcome—increasingly in doubt as Mr Epton gains strength—may have far-reaching consequences. Violence has been threatened on both sides. Prominent blacks suggest that if Mr Washington is defeated, they will launch a third party candidacy in the Democratic Presidential primaries, thus weakening liberal candidates. Disheartened black voters could turn away from the

voting process in droves, assuring a Republican Presidential win in 1984.

Beyond the mudslinging is a serious debate about racialism itself. Mr Epton's backers say his opponent won the primary contest simply because of black votes cast for race and that whites, who fear Mr Washington will not address their concerns, should not be condemned for doing the same.

Both candidates accuse each other of injecting racialism into the campaign. Mr Epton has

been widely criticised for using a series of television commercials with the menacing tagging: "Epton for Mayor—before it's too late."

The rhetoric has produced some ugly incidents. On Palm Sunday, Mr Washington, accompanied by Presidential hopeful Mr Walter Mondale, was jeered out of a white church where the two had been invited to worship.

The legitimate issues of the campaign are more often found buried in the candidates' briefing papers than in their stop-oratory. To avert a fiscal crisis, inherited from the Byrne Administration, Mr Epton promises to bring "sound business practices" to the management of city affairs.

Mr Washington, a traditional Democrat, calls Mr Epton "a Reagan clone" who will propagate the "Administration's" "heartless" policies. Of the two candidates, Mr Washington is the more charismatic. He speaks eloquently of wanting to unite the city's neighbourhoods of focusing on common problems.

"I hope my conduct in this campaign has made it possible for me to govern," he said at a fundraising dinner. "My life's blood is in this city. I want to be your Mayor so I can taste it." But his chances seem to be slipping away as the rhetoric grows harsher.

## Hawke may mean test pensioners

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, said yesterday that his Labor Government might refuse to pay state pensions to the wealthy. He says reports from Sydney, Labor would consider means-testing pensioners to assess their finances, he added.

Mr Hawke explained that Labor, which ousted the Liberal-National Party coalition in the March 5 General Election, had inherited a big budget deficit. It was only fair that those with the greatest capacity "should bear the sacrifices."

## Walesa "will not go"

MR LECH WALESA, who led Poland's now-banned Solidarity trade union, will not accept an invitation to visit Harvard University in June, because he fears he may not be allowed back, his wife Danuta said yesterday. Reuter reports from Warsaw. A Harvard spokesman said earlier that Mr Walesa had accepted an invitation to speak at Harvard's graduation ceremonies on June 9, if the Polish Government granted him a visa.

## Greek taxmen return

GREECE'S 6,000 tax inspectors returned to work yesterday after a 50-day strike but pledged to continue their struggle against organisational changes in the Finance Ministry. Reuter reports from Athens. The strike has disrupted the processing of income-tax returns and the sharply increased car taxes intended to be the Government's main new revenue-raising measure for 1983.

## Sikh day of protest

Harkand Singh Longowal, a militant Sikh leader in India's northern state of the Punjab yesterday called on Sikhs around the world to observe April 17 as a day of protest and mourning for at least 24 people killed in clashes with police last Monday. Reuter reports from New Delhi.

## Guerrilla victory

Guerrillas fighting for the independence of Ethiopia's northern Tigray Province said yesterday that they killed 600 Government soldiers in a battle near Addis Ababa. Reuter reports from Rome. No immediate comment was available from Ethiopia.

## Botha accuses U.S.

South Africa's Foreign Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, has accused the U.S. Government of "meddling in South African affairs," the Rand Daily Mail reported yesterday. Reuter reports from Johannesburg. The U.S. was "premature" in its criticism of the shooting by South African police last weekend of Mr Saul Mkhize, a black leader. Mr Botha was reported to have told a Mail reporter: "Police said the officer concerned had fired to quell a riotous crowd. The South African Government was said to deeply regret the incident."

## Tanzania shuts border

Tanzania has closed its borders in a campaign against "saboteurs and racketeers," President Julius Nyerere said in a speech reported by Radio Tanzania yesterday. Reuter reports. He promised leniency for people who surrendered illegally-acquired goods and money but said those who dumped goods in panic would be severely dealt with.

## Kelly 'fed up' with Greens' discontent

BY JAMES BUCHAN IN BONN

THE RUMBLING discontent in the Greens' parliamentary party elected in West Germany for the first time on March 6, erupted into the open yesterday when a leading member bitterly attacked the party's activities in and outside parliament.

Three weeks before the new Bundestag is to convene formally, Frau Petra Kelly, 36 and one of the parliamentary party's three spokespersons, told a Munich newspaper yesterday that she was fed up and had considered giving up her seat.

Frau Kelly, the best-known and one of the most popular of the leaders of the environmental and disarmament movement, suffers from a weak

heart and said yesterday that she was taking a two-week convalescence. She admitted that she had exhausted herself campaigning since last September, but said the "last straw" had been charges from grass-roots organisations that she was hogging the limelight.

Her outburst casts a harsh light on the immense difficulties of the new parliamentary party. She believes that parliamentary work is a "sideshow," compared to direct action against armament, especially NATO's new missiles. Even those committed to the parliamentary experiment are caught between the need to find a *modus vivendi* with the authorities and other parties in the Bundestag and the keen sensitivity by

grass-roots members to any signs of bourgeois tendencies among the 27 elected deputies.

Some deputies complain that the Greens' attempt to devise a more democratic approach to Bundestag work—including the displacement of deputies every two years and a committee to monitor members' performance—threatens to shake the deputies before they start.

Frau Kelly has made no secret of her irritation at the inexperience of the parliamentary Greens. She receives up to 200 letters a day but has not been allowed the luxury of a secretary to help her answer them.

● Petra Kelly (right)



## Sharp fall in W. German industrial orders

BY JAMES BUCHAN IN BONN

ORDERS BOOKED by West German manufacturing industry fell sharply in February against the month before, indicating just how problematical are the widespread hopes of an economic upturn this year.

After signs of strengthening demand in the hefty increases in domestic orders in November, December and January,

manufacturing orders in February fell by 10 per cent in terms adjusted seasonally and for inflation against the previous month.

In announcing the figures yesterday, the Economics Ministry pointed out that the decline was expected and was a "technical" adjustment after the January increase. The

increase was itself an overhang from the boost given to domestic orders by the Government's investment bonus that expired at the end of last year.

The picture in February was also almost certainly distorted by a wait-and-see attitude to the outcome of the March 6 election.

The Ministry pointed out that

on a two-month reckoning, generally held to reflect the trend more accurately, orders were up by 1.5 per cent in the first two months of the year as against the last two of 1982.

However, yesterday's disappointing results do underline that firm evidence has yet to appear that a turning-point has been reached.

## Saudi monetary agency chief to resign

RIYADH — Abdul-Aziz al-Qurashi, governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama) since 1974, is to resign April 14, according to the pro-government Okaz newspaper and Sama officials.

Hamid al-Siyari, currently vice-governor at Sama, has been named acting governor. Both the governor and vice-governor positions are filled by Royal appointment.

Al-Qurashi's resignation, which took the banking community in Riyadh by surprise, was explained to senior staff at Sama as a "retirement".

The 53-year-old al-Qurashi is said to desire a return to the private sector.

He will not leave the same day as the Saudi budget for fiscal 1983-84 is to be announced. AP

## Unrest will be ruthlessly dealt with, Mugabe says

BY OUR HARARE CORRESPONDENT

MR ROBERT MUGABE, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, yesterday said that anyone who helped the "dissidents" in Matabeland risked being killed by troops. Government would deal ruthlessly with unrest, he warned, adding: "Where men and women provide food for dissidents, when we get there, we eradicate them."

"We don't select who we fight because we can't tell who is a dissident or not. If people give dissidents food they are starting a war against the government."

The Prime Minister told a party rally near the midland city of Harare that people who supported the dissidents were "going to be killed."

"Because this is war," the

Premier said "don't cry if your relatives are killed in the process. It's the price of supporting dissidents."

Mr Mugabe was given an enthusiastic welcome by a crowd of some 2,000 tribespeople in an area where until two weeks ago a curfew was in operation because of military operations by the insurgents.

He was loudly cheered when he condemned the dissidents and attacked Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zapu opposition leader.

There is predominantly Shona, and this was reflected in the songs of praise from a choir of women lauding the activities of the North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade in its operations against the dissidents.

## Jobs plan follows Sao Paulo riots

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PRESIDENT Joao Figueiredo has announced the launch of a major job-creation programme, following this week's violent disturbances by unemployed workers in Sao Paulo.

The Federal Government is to authorise the release of Crozeiros 250bn (£39bn) within the coming days to be spent on civil construction works of social benefit, in areas such as education, health, and sanitation.

The presidency said it wanted to show that unemployment was as much a concern of the Federal Government as it was of the opposition-run state Government of Sao Paulo.

Mr Murilo Macedo, the Labour Minister, said on Thursday that the Government had approved a two-part plan to combat unemployment.

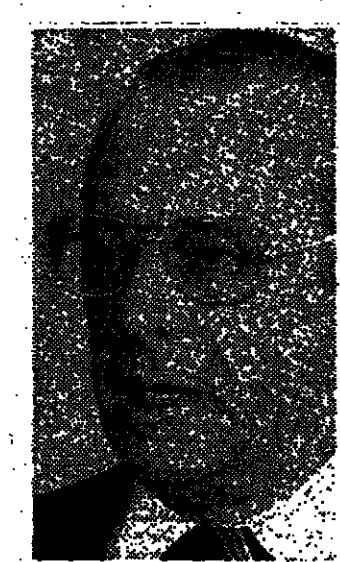
Financial assistance for those

out of work is to be improved and new job-creation schemes for unskilled manual workers are to be created, particularly in civil construction.

In a parallel move, the Rio state Government has said it intends to build 30,000 low-cost houses, creating employment for up to 150,000 people.

No figures were given for the cost of the programme, which is to be financed by the Banco Nacional de Habitação, the federal housing bank.

Rio de Janeiro has been unaffected by the sort of protest marches and outbreaks of looting which shook Sao Paulo for three days. But small-scale clashes over land occupations are a constant feature of Rio life, resulting from the city's severe housing shortage for low-income groups.



Joao Figueiredo

## Moscow sustains anti-cruise drive

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MOSCOW fired the latest salvo in its war of words today with Washington. It was designed to exacerbate western public opposition to deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles and to coax the White House into ceasing at the nuclear disarmament talks at Geneva.

The Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation, made up of generals and civilian arms experts, launched a booklet entitled "How to Avert the Threat to Europe," which made clear that Moscow sees that threat as American and would like western Europe to share the opinion. The booklet sums up the Soviet case that a military balance exists in Europe and Washington's proposals at the Geneva talks are calculated not to achieve agreement but to wreck the negotiations and allow the deployment of new missiles.

Spanish and Russian, in the hope that some will find their way into the hands of militant western anti-missile campaigners.

Moscow's line, reiterated in the songs of praise from a choir of women lauding the activities of the North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade in its operations against the dissidents.

## Rejected

David Tonge adds: Western defence officials in London yesterday categorically rejected Soviet claims that there is now a balance of intermediate nuclear forces (INF) in Europe. The Soviet Union has claimed that at present it has 975 INF systems deployed against NATO, compared with 983 Western

1,000 kms (625 miles) — the minimum range considered necessary to bring a delivery vehicle into the category of intermediate.

## Bombers

The officials also objected to the inclusion in the Western European total of 65 U.S. FB-111 bombers based in North America and as many as 240 U.S. A6 and A7 fighter-bombers based on aircraft-carriers.

The officials also objected to the way that the Soviet Union had insisted on counting launchers, rather than warheads. Once allowance is made for the 331 SS-20 missiles with triple warheads, comparison, even on the basis of Soviet launcher figures, shows the USSR with a clear lead. However, the officials welcomed the way that Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had appeared to pay more

## Tennis sparks China-U.S. row

BY OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT

THE U.S. appears to have seriously underestimated the extent and seriousness of China's reaction to the decision to grant political asylum to the 19-year-old tennis player, Miss Hu Na.

What the U.S. Government seems to have calculated as another manageable irritation to an already broadly strained relationship could well have set back the Sino-U.S. relationship to its shaky position before the fence-mending communique issued in the wake of the row over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan in the middle of last year.

Since the granting of asylum for Miss Hu was announced on Monday, China's reaction has become daily more strident and concentrated.

On Tuesday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry attacked the decision as "a grave incident long premeditated and deliberately created by the U.S." On Wednesday, a diplomatic note was delivered to the

living" with anti-Chinese elements "in an illegal and immoral way."

On Thursday, it was announced, in another vitriolic message, that all official cultural and sporting contacts were cancelled for the rest of the year.

But perhaps the most significant indicator of the depth of China's feeling came last night when General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Hu Yaobang, met a delegation from the Swedish Communist Party.

The scheduled programmes on Peking television were interrupted for a special news bulletin to report Mr Hu's speech. He strongly attacked the decision on Miss Hu, emphasised the importance of China safeguarding its Socialist integrity, and accused the U.S. of "hegemonist behaviour."

The "hegemonist" label was one of China's favourite

between Peking and Moscow last year. It was also used to attack Washington over its continued arms sales and co-operation with Taiwan.

But the hegemonist criticism had not been levelled against the U.S. since relations were patched up last year.

Diplomats in Peking regard the overall strength and persistence of China's feeling as a mounting impetuousness with the broader deterioration in the Sino-U.S. relationship over the past few months.

In addition to the row over arms sales to Taiwan and the continued expression of pro-Taiwan sentiments by leading U.S. officials, including President Reagan, there are trade and technology disputes.

Despite four rounds of talks, the two nations are still unable to agree on U.S. demands for tougher quotas on Chinese textile exports to America and the U.S. is continuing to refuse

## Hungary devalues

By Leslie Collett in Berlin

HUNGARY has devalued its currency, the forint, by 3 per cent against major Western currencies, in a move to boost exports. Hungary conducted about 55 per cent of its trade in transferable roubles. The Hungarian National Bank explained the step by saying that, while Western currencies had been reducing their rates of inflation, there had been an "acceleration" of price increases in Hungary. Inflation this year in Hungary was expected to amount to 7.5 per cent.

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## UK NEWS - LABOUR

## Industrial Society critical of union reform proposals

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT'S proposals to improve trade union democracy try to set democratic standards not demanded of any other area of national life, according to the Industrial Society in a critical response to the Government's Green Paper on trade unions' internal affairs.

Yesterday was the final day for responses to the Green Paper, *Democracy in Trade Unions*, to be deposited with the Employment Department, and officials will now start sifting the submissions before moving to any further legislative stage.

The consensual Industrial Society says that the paper's suggestion that union members should be able to register their views on all matters concerning them is demanding "a democratic process that has not been achieved since the full assemblies of ancient Athens—if then."

Company members do not enjoy the right to register their views on all matters of the company's affairs, for example, and the Green Paper accordingly "seems to wish to set standards of democracy not demanded in

any other sphere of national life."

The society argues that, contrary to the Green Paper's suggestions, many unions have altered their internal procedures significantly, listing as examples the Civil Service union, CPSEA; the steel union, ISTC; the train drivers' union, ASLEF; the postal workers' union and the miners' union.

From this evidence, it says that "it is clear that there is a widespread voluntary move towards reform afoot. This considerable effort to put their house in order by the unions needs nurturing and support."

The society is critical of the Green Paper's suggestion that low turnout in union elections damages their credibility. "This is a strike which of local government in the UK and would reflect badly on most of the debates in the House of Commons." It sees this as another instance of demanding of the unions "a higher standard than is practised in vast areas of public life."

It rejects the Green Paper's assertion that allegations of corrupt union practices erode public confidence in unions, saying: "If allegations were

sufficient, the Lloyd's insurance market would have collapsed this winter."

The linking of a debate about strike ballots and democracy to the political activities of trade unions is also incorrect, and has coloured responses to the Green Paper.

Overall, the society concludes that there should be no more labour legislation, but a greater encouragement towards greater democracy by unions themselves.

This is also the broad conclusion of a submission by the Institute of Personnel Management on the Green Paper. Voluntary reform would be the most effective method, though the IPM says that this does not exclude codes of practice and guidelines with a minimum of statutory support.

The IPM suggests that there may be scope for a code of practice on trade union balloting criteria.

In addition, the IPM says that elections should only be applied to unions' governing bodies, which once elected should decide in consultation with their members on the election or appointment of union officers.

## Pay cut row halts Welsh television plant

By Robin Reeves, Welsh Correspondent

PRODUCTION at GEC-Hitachi's South Wales television plant was brought to a halt yesterday by a row over the Anglo-Japanese company's plans for a cut in take-home pay.

Few of the 1,200 manual workers at the plant at Hirwaun, near Aberdare, reported for work yesterday, after the management had warned that none would be paid if a protest work-to-rule, started earlier in the week, continued.

The work-to-rule was triggered by company proposals for a wages freeze for a third year running and alterations in a bonus system which would leave production workers with £6 to £7 a week less in their pay packets. Current earnings are around £91 a week.

A peace formula worked out on Thursday with the aid of Mr Roy Sanderson, a national officer of the electrical trade union, the EETPU, as well as local management and union officials, which would have cushioned the impact of the bonus cut over the next 15 weeks, was subsequently rejected by a full meeting of the workforce.

Meanwhile, talks between management and unions to try to end a three-week old strike at Alcan's Rogerstone Aluminium Mill, South Wales, over redundancy terms started yesterday. The stoppage has centred on Alcan's insistence that 350 planned redundancies should be confined largely to the plant's extrusion mill—which is to be closed—rather than be spread throughout the site on the "last in first out" principle.

The redundancies are part of the company's overall rationalisation plan in the wake of its acquisition of British Aluminium last year. Rogerstone employs 1,500 workers and has escaped relatively lightly in the rationalisation strategy. It is due to expand its sheet and foil production.

Justifying the company's stance, prior to yesterday's talks, Mr Brian Kemp, the plant manager, said it was essential for them to retain the skills and experience in the sheet and foil operations. They did not have either the time or resources for intensive training of people transferred from redundant areas.

Companies unless it becomes British Government policy. The Broad Left will also try to win acceptance for motions supporting various forms of unilateral nuclear disarmament. The group claims to have six subscription-paying members on the new, 30-strong executive, plus the support of another three on certain issues. Opponents of the Broad Left give it only one or two hardcore members on the executive, plus the occasional support of another five.

Attendance at Broad Left meetings has declined recently, but members claim its influence has waned, as indicated by the apathy of independent left-inclined motions on the conference agenda.

The Broad Left's total membership is about 50. Members pay £12 a year to join.

## Radio Times print switch warning given

BY IVO DAWNAY, LABOUR STAFF

A PRINT union leader said last night that the BBC has already selected alternative printers for the 3.5m print run of the Radio Times if a solution to the two-week-old dispute, which has disrupted publication, is not found shortly.

Mr Ted O'Brien, national Graphical and Allied Trades 82, said last week the BBC had indicated that it wanted to transfer publication of the paper to Thomas Nelson of York and the Severn Valley Press of Caerphilly. However, the union had warned that any such transfer would be met with "blacking" action by Sogat members.

Mr O'Brien said that the decision this week of workers at BPCC's East Kilbride works to return to normal working had clearly persuaded the BBC to maintain publication with BPCC. But there was little

alternative for staff at the company's Park Royal, London factory to reaching an agreement in the light of the BBC's threat to reallocate the contract.

Mr Bill Keys, joint general secretary of Sogat, is to address the BPCC Park Royal workers on Monday.

The Park Royal staff are particularly concerned at terms in the peace agreement that commit them to resume normal working on basic rates for four weeks to allow union negotiators to discuss new working practices agreements with management.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the BPCC chairman, has given an undertaking to invest as much as £10m in re-equipping the plant if a settlement is reached. But he has also warned that without an agreement the plant will close within 60 days of last week's talks.

## Strike ballot at Karrier

By Our Labour Staff

WORKERS AT the Karrier Motors factories in Luton and Dunstable may strike to try to get the company to increase its 2½ per cent pay offer.

The 1,000 workers at the two plants, which make Dodge trucks, will vote on whether to strike on Monday.

The threat of strike action against the company, a subsidiary of the French motor company Renault, follows a series of talks between union officials and management.

The company has refused to improve on the offer which union officials say would give most production workers increases of about £2.70 a week.

The result of the ballot is expected to be known on Tuesday but the unions, who have made a claim for a substantial increase in pay, will give the company 10 days' notice of any strike action.

## Bifu wary over attack on Broad Left group

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS of the non-political Banking, Insurance and Finance Union are unlikely to make a generalised attempt to curb the controversial internal activities of the Broad Left group, but are thought to be considering expulsions of individual members.

They will be wary of making martyrs, however. They believe the 18-month-old group's numbers to be small and declining, although potentially it could damage the non-political image which has helped Bifu grow to more than 150,000 members.

At the union's annual conference which opens in Blackpool tomorrow, Mr Ken Pooler, Bifu president, is expected to attack as undemocratic the Broad Left's tactics of circulating model motions for branches to put forward.

An attack on the Broad Left is contained in an amendment

from the Yorkshire area council, which seeks to instruct all members "to refrain from party political activity within the union, whether by circulation of documents or fringe meetings."

It calls for anyone acting contrary to the spirit of the motion to be disciplined for bringing the union into disrepute, which could mean expulsion.

Standing orders committee has rejected the amendment on the basis that it adds no matter to the original motion—a simple endorsement of the union's non-party political ideals—but if an appeal is upheld it could still be discussed by the conference.

The Finance Workers Broad Left, as it is fully known, circulated nine model motions, eight of which appear on the conference agenda.

A motion calling for a lay member to take the union's automatic seat on the TUC general council, which would bar Mr Leif Mills, general secretary, from the post, seems set to fail.

Bifu's national executive has submitted an alternative motion proposing that Mr Mills takes the seat for 1983-84. The Broad Left will concentrate its efforts on defeating an amendment to this, which would give the post to him indefinitely.

The executive is also opposing the amendment, so it may fail. This will give the Broad Left the opportunity to re-open the issue in the future.

The left will make a determined effort to prevent adoption of a union report on South Africa. The report recommends that Bifu should not support demands for disinvestment by British banks and

companies unless it becomes British Government policy.

The Broad Left will also try to win acceptance for motions supporting various forms of unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The group claims to have six subscription-paying members on the new, 30-strong executive, plus the support of another three on certain issues. Opponents of the Broad Left give it only one or two hardcore members on the executive, plus the occasional support of another five.

Attendance at Broad Left meetings has declined recently, but members claim its influence has waned, as indicated by the apathy of independent left-inclined motions on the conference agenda.

The Broad Left's total membership is about 50. Members pay £12 a year to join.

## CONTRACTS

## British consortium wins £9m Arab deal

A dirhams 50m (£8.3m) contract has been awarded to a British group led by the United Arab Emirates-based quantity surveyors/consultants Widnell and Trollope (Middle East). Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan has placed the contract, for an 18-floor "mixed use" building combining a commercial development with private accommodation, to be built in Abu Dhabi.

The ground floor will accommodate a branch of the BCCI and there will be four floors for offices, three for apartments, and eight for duplex apartments and penthouse suites, a mezzanine floor and a service floor. The members of the consortium are: project managers and quantity surveyors—Widnell and Trollope (Middle East); architects—Wilson Mason and Partners (Middle East); consulting engineers—R. J. Crocker and Partners; mechanical/electrical engineers—Jan Easman and Associates; contractors—Laing Abu Dhabi.

Dunlop is to invest £2m in extending its conveyor belt manufacturing facilities at the Drachten, Holland, plant of Dunlop Eneka. The major part of the investment is in a four-bowl calendar and its complete associated production line. Made by BERTSOF, the calendar is 2.5 metres wide and capable of handling a wide variety of belt reinforcement materials, including single-ply aramid fabric, steel cord carcass and solid woven carcass. Also included in

tinuous vulcanising equipment. Dunlop Eneka is a member of the Dunlop Belting Group.

Contracts worth more than £42m for fire protection and distribution pipework systems in a textile complex in Egypt, have been won by HALL AND KAY ENGINEERING, a subsidiary of Stavely Industries. The contract is in two parts. The first is for the design, procurement and installation of a fire protection system in the 48,000 square metre weaving shed. The value of this order is in excess of £500,000. The second part of the contract, worth nearly £4m, is for the procurement and installation of 42 kilometres of distribution pipework throughout the complex.

Macarthy is to install a £2m SPERRY UNIVAC 1100/62 multi-processor system at its headquarters at Romford, Essex. The computer will be the centre of a network serving 18 depots throughout the country and will provide data handling capability. The 1100/62 will have a 1.5 Mw of main memory supported by 24 8470 fixed disc drives providing a further 12,000 Mbytes of online storage. There will also be four magnetic tape systems and two 1400 lpm printers.

gory Two housing and aged persons' houses at Priory Road, NS, and a contract valued at £600,000 for the construction of 20 old persons' flats at Whiston Estate. Miskins has also commenced a computer room and office refurbishment project for Beresford Information Technology valued at £200,000.

Among awards to the TRY CONSTRUCTION GROUP are two modernisation schemes to 82 dwellings at Feltham and Isleworth for the London Borough of Hounslow with a combined value of £720,000. The Equity and Law Insurance Society has placed an order for the construction of printing facilities at High Wycombe, value £360,000. For the Powell Duffryn Timber Company, the company will construct a woodworking mill and dust extraction plant together with an adjacent storage building at Southall, for £310,000. Work will start soon on extensive renovation and refurbishment of the Grade II listed building Scone House, Old Church Street, Chelsea, at a cost of £440,000.

A £4m turnkey contract to link and fit out twin warehouses on the former Denham film studios site has been awarded to the south eastern region of JOHN LAING CONSTRUCTION. Alterations will provide an office, together with welfare areas, and

warehouses will be fitted with gas-fired heating, sprinklers, lighting and storage systems.

On the site of a 100-year-old saw works at Bromesgrove, RICHARDSON AND BOTTOMS is to build a 73,000 sq ft building split into various warehouse units for Bayer (UK). The site conditions are poor with canal, railway, road and salt lagoons nearby. The vibro-compaction method of soil stabilisation will be used. The contract is worth over £1m. Work has started for completion on December 11.

Roading contractor BRIGGS AMASCO (part of Tarmac group) has won two Scottish contracts, together worth over £1m. In Livingston New Town, West Lothian, the company has a £580,000 order for the roofs and sidewall cladding on four advance factories and in Lady Road, Edinburgh it has won £500,000 worth of work on a major shopping development.

A package-deal contract for construction at Tilbury "B" power station has been awarded to PRESS CONSTRUCTION by the Central Electricity Generating Board. Worth well over £500,000, the contract covers design and construction of chemical storage facilities at the Essex power station, with completion scheduled for September. The project consists chiefly of the erection of nine storage vessels in capacities up to 250 tonnes for

## THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

## Shares sprint

## LONDON

ONLOOKER

Receding fears of an oil price war continued to work wonders for sterling this week but the equity market had to wait until after the end of the tax year before getting a spring in its step. Then favourable economic indicators helped the FT Industrial Ordinary share index surge to reach an all-time high of 675 in after-hours trading yesterday.

Gifts were buoyed up by the prospect of a stronger pound leading to further cuts in bank base rates, but the authorities' actions in the market later dashed these hopes, and interest quietened ahead of a new tax season.

The extended Easter trading account ended yesterday with the FT index up 14 and sterling finished slightly below its midweek peak.

## Tilling raided

Business was just getting back into full swing after the Easter break at the London headquarters of Thomas Tilling on Tuesday morning, when BTR chairman Sir David Nicholson and chief executive Mr Owen Green called in. This was the first warning that Tilling's chief executive Sir Patrick Meaney had that a market raid on his company's shares was in progress.

BTR had sent its brokers Cazenove into the market to buy up to 14.99 per cent of Tilling—the City limit for the first stage of a raid.

Despite the description of the purchase as merely "an investment" the City interpreted it as a prelude to a full scale takeover battle between two of the country's largest industrial holding companies.

Prior to the raid Tilling's shares had been languishing around 128p. Even so, BTR's offer in the market of 175p, bettering the 1982 peak, was not

wholly successful. By the end of Thursday it appeared to have attracted only 8.7 per cent of the shares at a cost of £34m. Takers remained difficult to find and Tilling's price settled at 175p.

Nevertheless BTR had made itself Tilling's largest shareholder at a price that Sir Patrick described as "wholly unattractive" of the underlying worth and prospects.

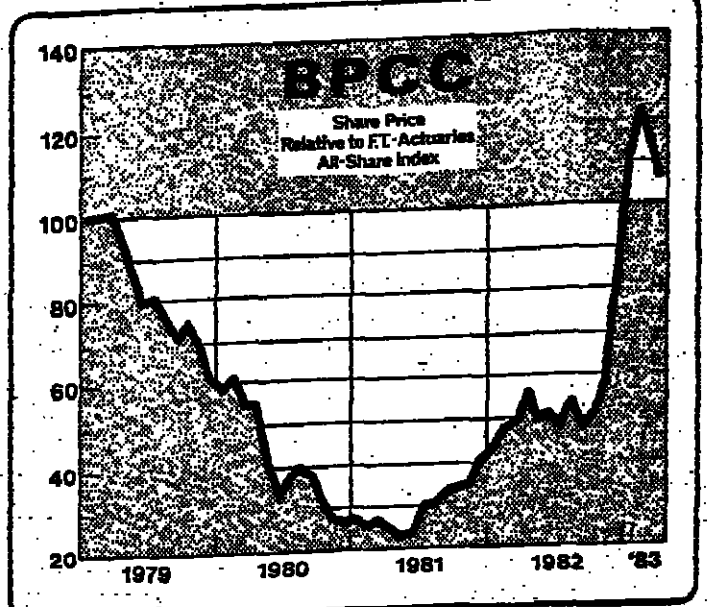
That BTR might launch a major bid this year should have come as no surprise. It has not gone out of its way to quell talk of an acquisition, most probably to strengthen its foothold in the U.S. But no one had expected anything on such a scale. If Tilling is indeed to be the target, the raid price values the victim at £510m which would make any bid the largest ever industrial takeover on the London stock market.

The timing of the move is understandable. On the day last month that BTR was reporting an 18 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £107m for 1982, Tilling was revealing a 41 per cent slide to £45.7m. The setback arose from a £41m swing from profits into loss by the energy equipment activities in the U.S. after three years of rapid growth in this division.

Overall, Tilling's pre-tax margins have tumbled during the last five years to 2 per cent while BTR, helped by the acquisition of Serck in 1981, has lifted its margins from 11 to 14.7 per cent. One source estimates that BTR may be taking advantage of Tilling's current weakness, the latter's outlook is now much brighter with lower interest costs and a strong dollar likely to aid its profits recovery. So the scene could be set for a bitter tussle.

## BAT flying

BAT Industries astonished the City on Thursday when it announced that last year's pre-tax profits steamed ahead by £172m to £586m, with turnover up 24 per cent to £11.51bn—the first time it has topped £10bn. A final dividend of 15p



raises the total by nearly a fifth to 27.5p.

It was already clear, even before the news, that BAT was capable of complementing its dependence on tobacco. It sells an estimated 600bn cigarettes annually, accounting for roughly three-quarters of trading profits—with a range of other interests. But last week's figures provide further ammunition against criticisms of BAT's astuteness in buying and running non-tobacco businesses. While tobacco's profits grew 22 per cent, retail profits expanded 42 per cent.

Currency fluctuations gave a solid leg-up to the 25 per cent rise in group profits, but still leave an underlying growth of 11 per cent. One source estimates that the dollar has only to shift one cent against sterling to affect BAT's pre-tax figures to the tune of £3m.

On the non-tobacco side, the troubled International Stores in the UK—often perceived as raising a question mark over BAT's diversification drive—returned to trading profitability by dint of rigorous cost control and improved productivity, while most of the loss-making Mainstop superstores have been sold or merged with International. The recently acquired Marshall Field in the U.S. recorded an £8m surplus

after funding and internal financing costs.

Brown and Williamson increased its cigarette sales and profits in the U.S. although its market share shrank 0.5 points. In the current year, U.S. cigarette industry volume is bound to contract following a doubling of federal taxes. Increased tobacco taxes in West Germany have landed BAT in a price war, with a 14 per cent decline in the total market there.

BAT has reacted to these pressures by investing heavily to improve productivity in its cigarette plants.

The paper division—represented by Wiggins Teape and Appleton Papers—improved its profits on the back of higher selling prices and lower input costs, but sales volumes in the UK were down in a slack market.

The group has completed a large capital spending programme in this area, but still has some way to go before achieving its aim of lifting the contribution of the non-tobacco divisions to 40 per cent of group profits.

## BPCC recovers

The turnaround in the British Printing and Communication Corporation from a £12m loss to a £12.4m profit before tax is the fruit of chairman Mr Robert Maxwell's survival plan for the company.

It was launched in 1981 after the shocking result in 1980 when BPCC, Britain's largest printing company, lost £11.3m and the then chairman Lord Kearnson warned that receiver-ship was the only other option.

The plan demanded financial reconstruction, reduced manning levels, the introduction of new technology and an aggressive marketing and acquisition policy. With union agreement, Mr Maxwell has achieved substantial savings from trimming labour and overhead costs.

The introduction of new gravure techniques and other modern printing methods, bringing cost savings and greater flexibility, continued and produced a sharp improvement in margins. But the performance was still below the hopes of City investors, which were set at around £15m, and the share price subsided somewhat.

Another year of negative cash flow was reflected in increased interest costs, up from £6.3m to £8m.

March had fallen by about a fifth.

So it's important that we get some good news in the quarterly reporting season which gets under way in the next week or so. The banks are traditionally among the first companies to produce their figures, and although their message may be obscured a little this time by a new accounting treatment, their message should—with any luck—be positive. Salomon Brothers estimates that the 34 banks which it follows will record an average earnings gain of 11.3 per cent, compared with the decline of 7.5 per cent in the dismal final quarter of 1982.

Still on a seasonal note, this is the time of year for annual meetings—and proxy battles. Some juicy affairs are cropping up in the weeks ahead. Shareholders in GAF are being deluged with messages from their board and a dissident shareholder group, with each side putting forward the most unkind thoughts about the other. This one is a bit like a fight between a ferret and your mother-in-law: it's hard to know who you want to win.

What could be an even more bloody affair comes up early next month at the annual meeting of Flexi-Van where the directors will try to fire Mr David Murdoch, a Californian millionaire, from the board. Mr Murdoch doesn't care to be

pushed around, and he has bought a stack of shares this week to show he means business, taking his holding up to over 30 per cent.

Meanwhile Flexi-Van is looking for a white knight to come to its rescue, and speculation about a bid has driven the share up to around \$271, compared with fully diluted earnings last year of just over \$3 a share. But it will take quite a bold bidder to come up against Mr Murdoch, a man who looks as though he eats white knights for breakfast.

A third and potentially more intriguing affair concerns the future of Trans World Corporation, the holding company for TWA—the big airline—as well as the Hilton International hotel chain and a number of other rather attractive properties.

Odyssey Partners—a group which owned the securities firm Oppenheimer and Co. before it was sold off to Mercantile House of the UK—thinks that Trans World's share price does not reflect the value of its underlying assets. It wants the board to work on a programme aimed at splitting up the business, by spinning off subsidiaries to shareholders or selling them off outright.

MONDAY 1127.67 -2.42  
TUESDAY 1120.16 -7.46  
WEDNESDAY 1113.49 -6.67  
THURSDAY 1117.65 +4.16

## Tired equities

## NEW YORK

RICHARD LAMBERT

IT'S BEEN an undistinguished sort of week on the New York Stock Exchange. Share prices have drifted lower in relatively dull trading and there have been no new leads coming from the bond market.

Tuesday brought some light relief, when the newspapers quoted an unnamed official of the Federal Reserve Board as saying that interest rates were far too high and that the surge in the money supply numbers was probably coming to an end.

The report didn't actually say that the official in question was extremely tall and smoked cheap cigars, but they otherwise left you in no doubt that the views were those of Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed's chairman.

Despite this encouragement, the equity market has been looking rather tired all week, probably for two main reasons. The first is that the market's excitement a month or two ago about the pace of economic recovery has now given way to the realisation that the upturn is likely to be gradual and slow. On the one hand, business executives are growing increasingly optimistic; the conference board's index of business confidence bounced up the smartly again last month. But what is the great American public up to?

According to the big store group's business is humming. On Thursday, they reported sales gains for March which ranged up to 27 per cent in the case of Dayton Hudson, and shares in the sector moved firmly ahead.

The motor car sales figures on Wednesday told a different story. Business had been looking really quite brisk over the winter months, but in February and March, sales by the U.S. manufacturers were only 1 per cent better than in the same period of 1982, and the annual rate of sales in March was only about 4m units—scarcely better than the outcome for 1982, which was the worst in over 20 years.

A second explanation for the market's hesitation in the last few days is that a number of companies have come up with some surprisingly disappointing forecasts of their first quarter earnings figures. Prime Computer was the big loser of the week, falling nearly 10 points to around \$33 on news that earnings in the three months to

## U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCK 9/4/83

DATASTREAM International												
Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Con- version dates†	Flat yield	Red yield	Premium‡			Cheap (+) Debt (-) §		
							Current	Range‡		Income	Conv‡	Div‡
British Land 12pc Cv 2002	8.60	285.00	333.3	80-87	4.1	1.0	2.3	- 4 to 8	29.9	81.3	17.8	+15.5
Hanson Trust 8pc Cv 01-06	81.54	192.00	107.1	85-01	5.1	3.2	-4.2	- 4 to 7	116.5	72.4	-22.0	-17.9
Slough Estates 10pc Cv 87-90	5.03	235.00	234.4	78-84	4.3		-2.7	-13 to -2	17.9	8.5	-3.5	-0.8
Slough Estates Spc Cv 91-94	24.72	110.00	97.5	80-89	7.4	6.7	9.5	4 to 12	29.3	34.9	5.6	-3.9

\* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † Three-month range. ‡ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ¶ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. † Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ‡ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ¶ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. † Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ‡ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ¶ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. † Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ‡ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ¶ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. † Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ‡ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend is paid. ¶ Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is assumed from present time until an ordinary dividend



Chicago

legitimate issues

Mr Washington

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MINING

The changing face of Gencor

BY GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

THIS TIME last year, things did not look too bad at all for General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor), South Africa's second largest mining and industrial finance house behind Anglo American Corporation.

The group seemed to be weathering the storms of international recession quite well, and was held enough to suggest that 1982's profits might well be repeated in 1983.

In the event, attributable profits for 1982 came out at R267.4m (£167m), a fall of 16 per cent. The effects on metal prices of the continued worldwide economic downturn, and the impact on the group's domestic industrial interests of the onset of recession in South Africa, were mainly to blame for the underperformance.

As the accompanying graph shows, there was a further shift in the balance of contributions by the various sectors to group profits.

In 1981, with South Africa's economy still bubbling away quite merrily while the rest of the world, by contrast, was looking increasingly depressed, Gencor's sizeable industrial interests became for the first time the major contributor to profits.

This trend remained in force last year, in spite of a fall of no less than 30 per cent in the value of income from the industrial interests as the South African economy began to slide during the second half of the year.

While the share of the industrial and commercial interests contracted slightly from 38.3 per cent to 35.4 per cent, it still accounted for by far the biggest single portion of income.

The profit from solid and mineral, meanwhile, was falling back even further from 1981's level, and now makes up little more than a quarter of group attributable profits.

The financial sector retained its third place in the levels of contribution thanks largely to increased earnings from township and property development and activities on the money markets.

Platinum, held through Gencor's interest in Impala Platinum, slipped from fourth to fifth in this particular league table, with the important U.S. motor industry limiting its outlays to the minimum levels.

In sixth place last year came the group's base metal and mineral activities. The cash value of their contribution was

down, but the percentage share increased.

In fact, the results of these activities were cushioned to some extent from the worst effects of the worldwide declines in base metal prices by the industrial income contributed by the asbestos mines acquired from Transvaal Consolidated Lead and Exploration at the end of 1981.

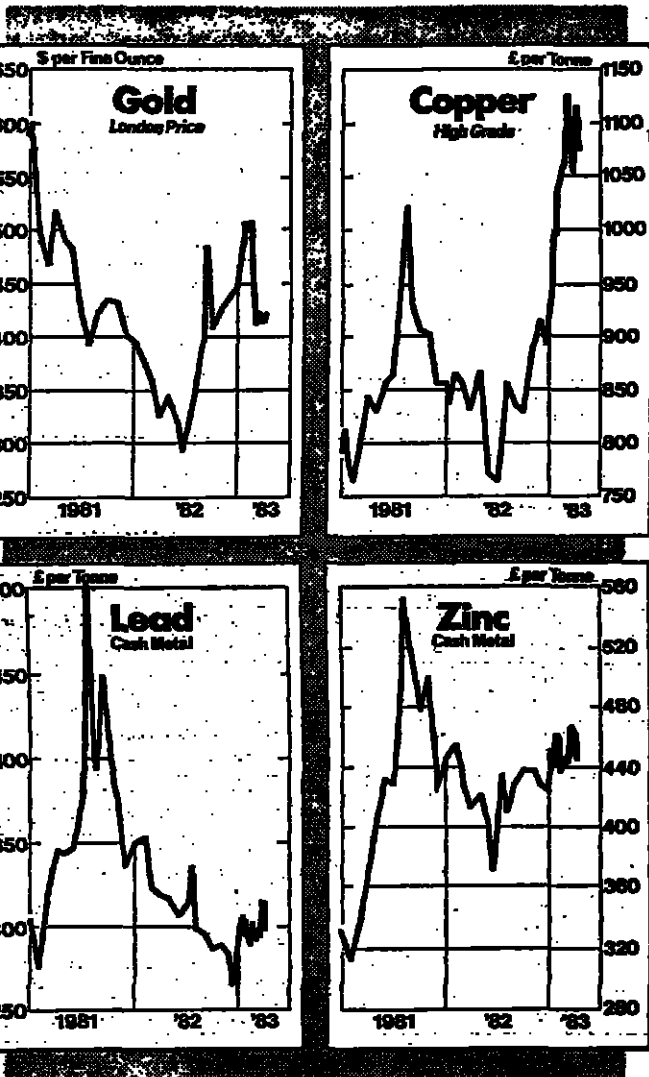
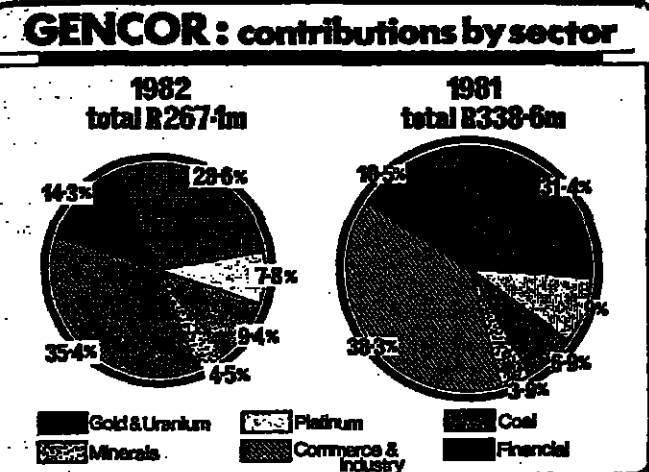
This still serves to demonstrate clearly the savage effects the world recession has had on the profits of big mining groups.

Even Gencor, with an excellent spread of interests in mining ranging from gold and uranium through platinum, coal,

sebestos, chrome, manganese, fluorspar, limestone, rutile and zircon, was not immune.

However, the picture could change this year. Mr Pavitt's statement was understandably not optimistic, with the prediction that the group can expect no worthwhile growth this year.

There could though, be quite a shift in the balance of contributions by sector, with less coming from the industrial side as South Africa slides deeper into recession, and an improvement in the prices of exported metals with demand picking up in the rest of the world as it emerges from the depths of the last couple of years.



FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

Alternative to B & B

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

Would the sale of part of a holding of shares by a husband for cash and the purchase of the same number of shares by his wife on the next day be an effective alternative to "bed and breakfast" if: (1) Husband and wife had opted for separate tax assessments and (b) purchased for settlement on settlement day?

The answer is yes to both parts of both questions 1 and 2. It would similarly be yes if the husband sold for account settlement.

No allowable loss

I refer to your reply under "Swapping share with son" (March 5) in which you state that sales between father and son are... a means of establishing chargeable gains. I have shares which cost £8,000 and are now trading at £4,000. I am proposing to sell them to my adult son on a put through transaction through my stockbroker (but not the jobber) and my son to pay me in cash. The cost would therefore be limited to 2 per cent. Does your reply mean that I will not be able to charge £8,000 as an allowable loss? And can you refer me to the legislation determining the exclusion?

A sale to your son cannot pro-

duce an allowable loss (unless other sales to him produce gains to cover the loss), because of section 62(3) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979. This rule was originally enacted in paragraph 17(3) of schedule 7 to the Finance Act 1965, to frustrate schemes to avoid CGT.

Avoiding a tenancy

Many years ago I let some land to an old friend who paid a small rent each year a day earlier than the previous year. We did not bother to get an annual licence between us or from the Ministry of Agriculture. I did commence, however, by getting from the Ministry "A notice of approval of minister to land being let on less than Annual Tenancy or Licence."

My friend died and his son asked me if he could continue, to which I agreed. In recent years, however, he has made a habit of paying his rent on two half year fixed dates and I am wondering whether he could claim more than a licence and become tenant and be difficult to shift. What do you think I ought to do?

To avoid being a tenancy with statutory protection it does not matter whether there is a letting or a licence, so long as the agreement is for grazing only and is for a period (in each case) of less than a year (eg 360 days), nor is Ministry approval required even if it is a letting. What you should do is to state to the son on the next convenient occasion that you are granting him a fresh licence, for grazing only, from such and such a date for 360 days (or as the case may be). You should then make a full and careful note recording your conversation, and when and where it

took place; and repeat this process each year. Better still, get him to confirm it in writing.

A confidential report

I have to bring a claim concerning land compensation. This involves a valuation date of nearly eleven years ago. The only information that can be used to pursue the claim is held by the Inland Revenue. They have stated that their records of purchases derived from submission of form STAMPS L(A)451 is completely confidential. From perusal of the form and the relevant Act there is nothing to state such information is confidential. Am I right?

There is a general rule of privacy of title in England. We think that, without statutory provision the court would construe the stamps form to which you refer as being a confidential document which should not be disclosed to third parties.

An unmarried couple

We have a young illegitimate son. The father and I are living together and both in employment. I understand that it may be possible to save tax by obtaining an amputation order against the father. I believe that for maximum benefit this should be paid to the child and be equal to his personal allowance. Could you please advise me further on this matter?

Despite their titles, you will find general guidance in two leaflets, which are obtainable from most tax inspectors' offices.

IR21—Income tax and married couples.

If you wish to pursue your idea, you will find the help of a solicitor (or maybe a local voluntary organisation). Our own inclination might be to await an indication from the Chancellor as to when (and to what extent) he plans to invite Parliament to modify its 19th-century view that marriage should be a prime criterion of taxable capacity, as fore-shadowed in the green paper issued in 1980. However, the Financial Secretary's remarks during the adjournment debate on Budget Day were not encouraging, so you may decide that you should not defer action to the benefit of your small son under the existing law.

A pension and a student

Having obtained her MA degree my daughter entered pensionable employment on April 6 1982. Between completing her Bachelor Degree and returning to college for further studies, she was working in industry in a non-pensionable post for two years spanning the three tax years 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81. If I provide her with a sum equal to 17½ per cent of her earnings in those three tax years (this would be less than the annual tax-free CWT allowance), can she now, under the six-year rule, buy with it a single-premium pension plan for the non-pensionable period? Or would she be debarred from this by the fact that she is currently in pensionable employment?

Yes—provided she pays the premium and submits the claim to her tax inspector before the end of the tax year (Easter Tuesday).

The maximum premium will be either: (a) 15 per cent of her damage.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

It would be a good idea for your daughter to write to her tax inspector for a claim form straight away, telling him the amount of the premium she intends to pay, as time is short.

Cat and dog trespassers

Sometimes ago, you advised a reader that there was little to be done to prevent a neighbour's cat from trespassing in his garden apart from the use of a powerful water pistol.

You indicated that, at common law, a cat is regarded as not being an animal sufficiently capable of being controlled to fix its owner with liability. Could yet let me know if this ruling applies to dogs or if an owner is expected to keep his dog under some restraint?

My problem arises from a nearby resident permitting two Alsatians to roam at large in the neighbourhood and also entering the close in which I live, over a boundary fence to the detriment of cultivated borders and lawns.

Dogs are not wholly to be equated with cats when trespassing, see for example the strict liability for injury by dogs to livestock under section 3 of the Animals Act 1971. However both cats and dogs are excluded from "livestock" for the purpose of trespass under section 4. It seems therefore that any claim you might have against the dogs' keeper would have to be founded in negligence. There is no reason why such a claim should not succeed, especially if damage is caused after the keeper of the dogs has been warned that they are causing damage.

New HK Australia Trust brings you 100% of Australia's potential. 1st offer of units - and a bonus! Invest through this newspaper offer by May 1st and we will add a FREE 1% bonus to your holding.

F.T.-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES QUARTERLY VALUATION

The market capitalisations of the groups and sub-sections of the FT-Actuaries indices as at March 31, 1983, are expressed below in millions of pounds and as a percentage of the All-Share Index. Similar figures are also provided for the two preceding quarters.

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS		Market capitalisation as at Mar. 31, 1983 (£m.)	% of all share index	Market capitalisation as at Dec. 31, 1982 (£m.)	% of all share index	Market capitalisation as at Sep. 30, 1982 (£m.)	% of all share index
1 CAPITAL GOODS GROUP	(208)	26,559.6	21.37	25,411.7	20.57	26,615.6	22.81
2 Buildings Materials	(82)	2,132.4	1.70	2,123.6	1.69	2,180.5	1.76
3 Construction	(80)	2,560.4	2.04	2,212.9	1.78	1,980.5	1.65
4 Electricals	(38)	1,174.9	0.94	1,190.6	0.96	1,788.6	1.48
5 Engineering	(129)	2,250.5	1.81	2,172.2	1.74	2,560.5	2.12
6 Mechanical Engineering	(94)	2,885.5	2.32	2,588.2	2.07	2,607.7	2.17
7 Metals and Metal Forming	(11)	1,109.4	0.89	979.5	0.79	908.1	0.75
8 Motors	(15)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
9 Motor Vehicle Materials	(10)	2,655.2	2.14	2,251.2	1.80	2,180.5	1.80
10 CONSUMER GROUP	(201)	40,980.0	32.81	39,854.6	31.86	38,594.4	31.30
11 Food	(25)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
12 Beverages and Soft Drinks	(21)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
13 Textiles	(14)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
14 Food Retailing	(14)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
15 Health and Household Products	(8)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
16 Leisure	(94)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
17 Media	(14)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
18 Packaging and Paper	(14)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
19 Stores	(14)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
20 Chemicals	(20)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
21 Tobacco	(2)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
22 Other Consumer	(10)	2,414.3	1.95	2,144.9	1.72	2,180.5	1.80
23 OTHER GROUPS	(79)	10,765.2	8.67	9,194.0	7.36	8,170.6	6.64
24 Chemicals	(12)	4,162.5	3.33	3,711.2	2.94	3,125.9	2.53
25 Other Equipment	(6)	591.6	0.48	422.1	0.34	422.1	0.34
26 Shipping and Transport	(24)	1,147.8	0.92	979.5	0.79	908.1	0.75
27 Miscellaneous	(43)	4,240.3	3.39	4,162.5	3.33	3,711.2	2.94
28 INDUSTRIAL GROUP	(638)	78,329.9	63.05	74,480.2	59.08	70,518.0	58.65
29 Coal	(14)	14,179.0	11.41	12,282.7	9.79	10,287.0	8.36
30 ALL-SHARE INDEX	(780)	124,164.6	100.00	124,496.4	100.00	124,113.9	100.00

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## BOOKS

## Aussie find

BY MARGARET DRABBLE

The Fortunes of Richard Mahony by Henry Handel Richardson. Penguin Books. £4.95. 332 pages

Until recently, Henry Handel Richardson (1870-1946) was one of those out-of-print great writers whose fate it was to be described as "unjustly neglected." An accolade which most living writers would duck to avoid. A pseudonymously Australian woman (her real name was Ethel) who moved to Europe when young to study music, and who settled finally near Hastings, she may even seem to have contributed to her own obscurity. But time has worked in her favour. It is now fashionable to be a woman, and a Virago brought out two of her novels, *Maurice Guest* and *The Getting of Wisdom*, in 1981; the latter had reached a wider audience in the form of a fashionable Australian film. Now Penguin have published her most ambitious work, a trilogy entitled *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony*; it appears in one fat volume, but appeared originally in three parts, from 1917-20. We can judge for ourselves whether or not it sustains its remote reputation as a masterpiece, an epic of tragic grandeur.

It opens in Australia in the late 1830s, the time of the gold-rushes, with Richard Mahony, of Irish-born, Edinburgh-educated doctor working as a storekeeper in a rough mining settlement, where the earth itself kills: a man is buried alive in the first sentence, an indication that Richardson had chosen not to confine herself to sensitive, womanly perceptions. She traces

Mahony's career, through courtship and marriage and the (late) birth of children; through the growth of a successful medical practice and the increasing respectability of his friends, his relations, and his adopted nation; through the acquisition and loss of a fortune derived from speculation ("the national vice," as Mahony describes it); to a finale of poverty, degradation and madness.

At the end of the trilogy, his loyal wife Mary, who had once entertained grandly in government circles (there are some shrewd, double-edged comments on "the extravagant, exaggerated hospitality of colonial life") embarks on a humble career as postmistress to support her young children, as, in real life, did Ethel Richardson's mother. Ethel's counterpart, a musically-gifted boy, is under 10 years old at his father's death, as was Ethel. So her documentation is not that of an eye-witness; it is an imaginative reconstruction, made by a woman who had left her native land almost 20 years earlier, and who paid it only one brief visit in the rest of her life.

As a portrait, it breathes the quality that these facts suggest. Richardson, like her fictional father (with whom she once said she closely identified herself) both loved and hated the landscapes, the society, the culture of Australia, as no doubt she both loved and hated the memory of her father himself. She presents Mahony as an ambiguous, complex, tormented man, a natural solitary whose "nature had a twist in it that hindered friendship," whose only close friend is, paradoxically, the rough, vulgar, extrovert Purdy, whose appear-

ances and disappearances throughout the trilogy are beautifully spaced to celebrate the passage of time, which is (as in Bennett's *Old Wives' Tale* or *Clayhanger* trilogy) one of her major themes. Mahony's feelings about Australia are complex, fluctuating, violent, at times he is appalled by its rawness:

His eyes ached, his brows had grown wrinkled from gazing on iron roofs set against the hard blue overhead; on dirty weatherboards innocent of paint... on the straggling landscape with its untidy trees—all the unrelieved ugliness, in short, of the colonial scene.

At other times (significantly, at this moment, when he has just had good news about his share prices) he is euphoric:

It was only a very ordinary late spring day; a pale azure sky against which the distant hills looked purple; above these a narrow belt of cloud touched, in its curves, to the same hue. But to Mahony it seemed as if such a perfect day had never dawned since he first set foot in Australia...

All this optimism, when the money runs out, ends badly at Barambogie, with its mill whistle, its bare cracked earth, its dead donkey, its pestilent lagoon. A land of opportunity: or a land of blistering heat, insects, melting butter, dysentery, packing-case furniture and disaster. Mahony ends defeated by the land and its ways, like the anonymous corpse in the first sentence. He was a restless soul, craving, ever dissatisfied, and but for the ambitions of his wife a born failure: her judgment on his



Henry Handel Richardson: belated comeback

deathbed is that "he had always asked more of life than it could give."

Did Richardson, in this work, aim at more than she could achieve? Many have thought so, and criticised her for writing in a realistic convention that had died before she adopted it, for attempting to imitate the grand monuments of the past. And the trilogy has its *longueurs* emphasised, alas, by the size of the Penguin print, which is something of a strain to the eyes.

And her focus blurs too, at times: is Australia her subject, or the solitary Mahony, or the nature of marriage, or the pro-

gress of a culture? There is something unresolved in the portrait of both the man and the country: at times one suspects a heroic act of expiation, and understanding of the painful past that proved impossible. But the effort and the achievement are both magnificent. And, unlike many works of this length, it gains its momentum as it progresses; the last volume, possibly because closer to the author's recollection, is most moving of all, and its resolution has, indeed, a tragic grandeur with the land that receives Mahony's body at last forgiven, and seen, at the last, as "rich and kindly."

## Cry Wolfe

BY GEOFFREY MOORE

The Purple Decades by Tom Wolfe. Jonathan Cape. £8.95. 396 pages

No, this is not a new book by the incomparable Tom, but a selection of his work over the past 18 years — from *The Kandy-Colored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby* in 1965 to *From Bauhaus to Our House* in 1981. The only book to be omitted is Wolfe's own account of *The New Journalism* which appeared in 1973.

To relish a typical Wolfe title (*The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, *Radical Chic* and *Tom-Wanking the Flak Catchers*) is to get a whiff of the arresting style of this rather outré Southern gentleman. For that's just it with Tom: *le style c'est l'homme même*, from the lank but well-groomed hair to the impeccable flash-Harry clothes. And as with the clothes, so with the words: the acute awareness of nuances, the knowledgeability about literature, the Flemingian notion of fashion; the unerring eye for the false and the louche. Wolfe, in fact, is a study in himself: born in Richmond, Virginia, the son of a professor, coming from the Southern squirearchy, taking his PhD in American Studies at Yale in the '50s, and emerging as a journalist for *Esquire* and other fashionable magazines.

It all started when *Esquire* sent him to investigate the "custom-car" phenomenon in Las Vegas. This piece combined with others on stock-car racing in North Carolina, and allied matters, became the *Streamline Baby* of 1965, and Wolfe's career as a latter-day scourge of the "booboisie" began. But,

of course, there is not only a touch of Meeklen in Wolfe, there is a bit of Riesman, too, and perhaps a little of Thurber. Which is not to say that, for all his study of past masters, he is not entirely his own man. What makes his work so fascinating is his ability to enter into the spirit of the very phenomena and individuals he is satirising.

Take, for example, the piece on Leonard Bernstein, which is the "radical chic" part of the book which also includes "mauling the flak catchers." It is not Bernstein but the politics of armchair agitation and the silliness of high fashion which end up being satirised. Yet even here there is a feeling, if not of sympathy, at least of understanding. This is the key to Wolfe's success: he is trying for something more than malice.

Whatever Wolfe chooses to deal with, his observations have the accuracy of long study. You would expect him to be right about the South and, of course, he is in his element catching the exact locations of "Junior Johnson" and the lollygagging ("Great smokin' blue gumballs god almighty dog") good old boys who need him as their hard-charging symbol. But what about "the Pump House gang" — Tom and Pam and John and Arlie, the 16-year-old surfers and loafers? Here also he does not put a foot wrong; his antagonism is directed not towards the gang, or old workahubby who is afraid of them, but the social system which tends to such attitudes. The same touch is there when he conducts us on a trip in Ken Kesey's psychedelic bus, or dazzles us with a discourse on "Mid-Atlantic Man."

But what of the future? It



Tom Wolfe: maestro of 1970s

is inevitable, given the appearance of this selection instead of a new book, that we should try to read between the lines: is Wolfe's spirit flagging? The last book with the true Wolfe touch was *The Right Stuff*, which, scarily, took us into the world of the astronaut. Here Wolfe, "the new journalist," met Mailer "the novelist as historian," coming from the other direction.

Two years after that, *From Bauhaus to Our House* described the invasion of America by European architects, and the bowing-down by Americans to these sacred symbols. The old skill was there, but with less than total engagement. What the current book does — rather amateurishly edited though it be — is to remind us of the range and power of Wolfe's work over nearly 20 years. There is more, we may be confident, where that came from.

## Bogarde concluded

BY RACHEL BILLINGTON

An Orderly Man by Dirk Bogarde. Chatto & Windus. £5.95. 292 pages

The front cover of this third and final autobiography by Dirk Bogarde is decorated by a photograph of his author retreating into a snowy landscape. From the full-length back view in dark overcoat is a far cry from the film star's obligatory glossy close-up. By now this is no surprise. Readers of Mr

Bogarde's previous four books, two of which were novels, will know that he is now as committed to writing as he was, occasionally still is, to acting.

However, the jacket photograph expresses most effectively the strengths of his writing — which perhaps are also the strengths of his acting. Here is an exceptionally private man, a shy man, who yet possesses the extraordinary confidence to enter the most public arenas of life. The confidence seems to

be produced from a combination of hard work, determination, and an old-fashioned kind of honesty.

There also must be some urge to exposure, although not of the obvious kind. (Perhaps that kind was satisfied by his long history as "Idol of the Odeons.") At any rate Mr Bogarde himself identifies these two sides of his nature and suggests that the reclusive element is inherited from his father, who was picture editor of *The Times* and

the "actor" side from his mother, a beautiful and emotional woman who gave up an acting career to marry.

Much of this volume is devoted to these very different parents. Mr Bogarde's deep affection for them does not cloud his extremely clear view of their strengths and failings. His excellent ear for dialogue makes them come alive in a way beyond the usual relationships-remembered-after-death syndrome. The tragedy of his

mother's fundamental frustration at being no more than a wife and mother is simply and movingly told.

A great deal of the first part of the book is concerned with the acquisition and renovation of the house and 400 olive trees he bought in the South of France. This would not seem obvious material for an entertaining read, but against a background of the man-eating world of film, it makes a charming and often hilarious interlude, that is, until the money runs out. Stars in British movies of the 1950s did not make fortunes.

Besides, his last job in Britain was doing a voice over for *The Forestry Commission*. At the start of the book Mr Bogarde was just finishing the taxing role of Von Aschenbach in *Death in Venice*. Certainly no one could deny him a rest after that. Yet that film pointed the way his career was to go after his pond-dredging and wall-building years.

First, there was *The Night Porter*, directed by Liliana Cavani, then *Provvidence*, directed by Alain Resnais, and shortly after *Despair*, directed by Fassbinder. All these were controversial, "serious" films made with the highest artistic ambitions. The portraits that emerge of the four extraordinary directors concerned would of their own make the book worth reading.

Mr Bogarde seems to have managed an extremely good professional relationship with them, although perhaps consciously not moving further. They were not easy men and women. Fassbinder gave him trouble by refusing to talk English. Visconti had to be treated like an emperor and Resnais insisted he rang David Mercer in Israel if he wanted to alter even one word of the script.

However, they all gave him superb opportunities for acting, if not for becoming a world famous star. This was European cinema, scrapping for every penny and more or less inimicable to Hollywood. Nor are such directors invariably to be found. Indeed, both Visconti and Fassbinder are now dead.

It was perhaps lucky, therefore, that Mr Bogarde was already starting his second career, writing, during this period. His early attempts were inspired by an American "pen-friend." Identified here only as "Mrs X," she carried on a correspondence with Dirk Bogarde from 1967 to her death in 1972. She not only taught him what to read and how to write but also gave back to him on her death a legacy of five years of his own diary-like writings. These letters form the basis for his autobiography.

## Fiction

## Sad guru

BY MARTIN SEYMOUR SMITH

In Search of Love and Beauty by Ruth Praver Jhabvala. John Murray. £5.50. 227 pages

The Watcher by Charles MacLean. Allen Lane. £7.95. 343 pages

The Price of Silence by Stephen Barley. Hamish Hamilton. £5.95. 270 pages

*In Search of Love and Beauty* is Ruth Praver Jhabvala's first novel for eight years. In the year that she published *Heat and Dust* (1975), she left India for New York, and it has taken her this time to feel able to cope with America. But cope with it she does: the result has been worth waiting for.

In her novels of Indian life Ruth Praver Jhabvala dealt ruthlessly with, among other things, both swamis and their European followers. She also (as notably in *Heat and Dust*) skillfully used techniques of time-shift. This new novel, too, weaves back and forth in time — effortlessly — and, too, it deals with spiritual pretentiousness. But this time the pretentiousness is Jewish-American: Leo

Kellerman, and his Academy of Potential Development.

*In Search of Love and Beauty* is about an America colonised (or so it seems) by Europeans; but truly it is a study in fraud and self-delusion, and that it is comic should not blind the reader to its tragedy. All the characters are lost souls: most of them know but have not the sense to act upon their knowledge. Leo — who at one point offers someone a "free analysis," and calls those who pay him "idiots" — despises himself, and is seen to advance himself by simple exploitation of susceptibilities which are in fact important (since they are religious) but which he trivialises because he is too lazy, like his victims, to work at living. In the end he himself becomes victim, like a pathetic schoolboy: he has learned nothing at all.

One might not be interested in this description of collective emptiness if the novel were not so well written, if the characters were not so well delineated — if the whole were not so sad. By stretching the ridiculous and tattered histories of her characters over three generations, the author has succeeded in giving depth to her satire: for no life is truly absurd, even if it

appears to be. By demonstrating her awareness of this, Ruth Praver Jhabvala humanises the cruel picture she draws.

It is to Ruth Praver Jhabvala's credit that, having exposed Leo's absurdities and emptiness, she should cause us to feel sorry for him — for this is what we should do. A substantial and utterly readable novel, no more intelligent one, we may be sure, will be seen this year.

Charles MacLean's *The Watcher* is a horror-shocker cast in the disguise of a mental breakdown. Martin Gregory, a computer salesman, comes home and commits an atrocity. Why? It would be unfair to give the plot away, since this is a good story, though hardly a literary one — I think we shall see it as a movie or TV movie. Essentially it is a variation on a now popular theme: demonic possession. As a thriller, it is excellent.

Stephen Barley's *The Price of Silence* has been developed as a novel and as a nine-part radio serial to be transmitted by Radio 4 (and in America). Written with almost frenetic economy, it is a fast-moving tale of espionage and love, wholly unconvincing, readable, unpretentious.

## Royal lady

BY GAY FIRTH

The Memoirs of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. Collins. £10.95. 208 pages

Memoirs, by definition, are deceptive: print-outs from the selective store of experience and response programmed at random into the capricious computer called human memory. By definition, "Royal" memoirs must needs suffer two additional constraints upon self-expression: a degree of public curiosity paralysing to contemplate; and a degree of good manners practised to self-protecting perfection in the line of duty.

Third daughter of the 7th Duke of Sutherland, eight children, born in 1901, Princess Alice is a Scot as well as a Scott. It shows. Persuaded by her nieces to set down stories of the days of her youth, and by her editor, John Sebastian McEwen, to include her public and private lives as a Royal duchess, she candidly employs both the general and her particular constraints to pleasingly graceful effect. Seldom can a

memoir have contained so much amusing anecdote, so little opinion, and such careful control of the uncontrollable impulses of heart upon memory.

Like another Alice, she passed from one side of the looking glass to the other. Her book falls neatly into two halves — with a faint clang, like a well-oiled portullis coming down. Before she married Prince Henry, third son of George V, "my life, as that of my friends, was principally devoted to pleasure, but in doing so we meant and, I think, did no harm to anybody." Childhood, girlhood, hunts, shoots, and "dreadful deb dances" gleam innocently through the portals of well-served stately homes: a head-keeper who is an expert on the Stock Exchange; governesses gone through at a tremendous rate; "special trains for family, servants, and eight tons of luggage like a circus on the move"; treasured visits — and even more treasured independence — in Kenya.

In August 1935 her father received a letter from the King. "I trust you have given your consent. Our families have known each other for many

generations now, and it gives me great pleasure to think that they will be more closely connected still." On marriage — "given no advice by anyone" about her official status and duties — she accepted that "I was a servant of the Country. The task has indeed proved more arduous than I thought it would be then."

But it reads gently, with only a few indications — released, with royal tact, via descriptions of frightful weather during her travels of just how arduous such a life "cost" and must be. "In the face of a crowd you are helpless, so it is no use bothering." "She married at 34, so I had had a very good innings," the most touching sentence in a book whose most touching — and typical — anecdote is about lugging a polythene bag full of beads to the Malayan jungle, where the King's Own Scottish Borderers — "my Regiment" — were stationed in 1957. "They were thrilled," heather bloomed in the jungle. "A guard of honour of headhunters attached to the Regiment were 'very surprised to find that the Colonel-in-Chief was a small female in a silk frock.'"

## Portmeirion connexion

BY NICOLA BEAUMAN

All Stracheys Are Consins by Amabel Williams-Ellis. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. £11.95. 203 pages

There are still a good many books to be written about those great intellectual families of England that intermarried and interchanged during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: the Darwins, Huxleys, Stephens, Potters and so on, with walk-on support provided by the Stracheys.

one about the Stracheys; anyone hoping for more detail about that large house in Lancaster Gate or the characteristic Strachey squeak is in for a disappointment. Instead we have a straightforward, rather pedestrian autobiography written by a writer, sociologist and wife to Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect.

It is in a way absorbing to read another account of that unabashed juggling of nannies, left-wing idealism and

biographies such as those of Dora Russell and Naomi Mitchison; the kind of existence which then visualised no education other than the extremes of Bertrand Russell or Eton, which deemed a visit to Russia essential and which moved gracefully from country house to town.

Occasionally the reader has the feeling that he has been here far too often before, as in the muffled man/murder details about the conventional Kensington upbringing. But there are

tion for her father's inveterate love of quoting. "I did wonder sometimes myself why he didn't make up what he wanted to say but I gradually learned better. He, like every writer, wanted the right word."

Perhaps mistakenly Amabel Williams-Ellis has chosen to include very few details about her husband, Clough, the architect of Portmeirion, in deference to it appears to the two biographies of him that are at the moment in preparation.

FINANCIAL TIMES  
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This Award-winning film describes the newsgathering, production and distribution processes of the Financial Times — which is printed in London and Frankfurt and distributed to over 150 countries. By taking a 24 hour period, it provides a rare insight into the complexities of producing an international business daily, and shows that every hour of the day someone, somewhere, is working on the next day's newspaper. THE FT—A 24 HOUR DAY is of particular interest to business schools and

industrial, commercial and professional organisations. It is available FREE OF CHARGE\* to these groups in two different lengths—40 mins (UK2926) and 26 mins (UK2927) on 16mm, Sony U-Matic and Betamax, and VHS, from the:

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## HOW TO SPEND IT

## New ways of doing the pools

NOT even a frosty Easter seems able to dampen the enthusiasm of the English for their gardens and life out of doors. Round about now we all begin to realise that summer may soon be here and those who are wondering whether this is the year when they might take the plunge and invest in a swimming pool might like to know about the new Zodiac inflatable pool.

Its chief advantages, it seems to me, are that if you have a small garden, don't want to have to choose between having a lawn or a pool, if you can't face all the excavations and digging that a permanent pool involves, then the Zodiac will allow you to keep your options open.

Zodiac is a name already well-known in the inflatable business. Its pools have been tried and tested in all sorts of conditions and are much used by rescue services, the oil business, in military circles as well as by those just having fun. The move into inflatable swimming pools seemed a natural step.

The company has used the same exper-

tise, the same very strong materials, to provide something that hasn't been done before—an inflatable pool with dimensions generous enough to allow adults to use it in much the same way as they would a conventional permanent pool.

As you can see from the photograph the Zodiac rests simply on top of whatever surface is available to place it on. It arrives packed as flat as it can go (this obviously varies depending upon which size of pool you've bought) and it can then be put together with very little effort.

There are five different models—two are designed as children's pools and there are three models described as "family pools." The largest, which has an inner (that is pool) length of 31 ft 2 ins and an inner width of 16 ft 4 ins, is £4,778. Like all the other models it comes with a complete pack of accessories—a ladder for climbing in and out of the pool, a filter system, an electric inflator (you will need to allow about 48 hours to erect the pool from scratch—that is, to allow for the electric pump to inflate the pool and for

the tubes and the pool itself to be filled with water), vacuum cleaner, net, carrying bag and so on.

The middle size of pool, which has an inner length of 24 ft 7 ins and width of 13 ft 2 ins is considerably cheaper at £2,848. The main disadvantage of the Zodiac pools seems to me their depth—the biggest one is just 4 ft 3 ins deep and though this is obviously enough for splashing about and for swimming it isn't enough for diving.

When winter comes, or if you need that patch of garden for something else in the summer, you can empty the pool (it comes with equipment to help do this) and fold it up and put it away for next time.

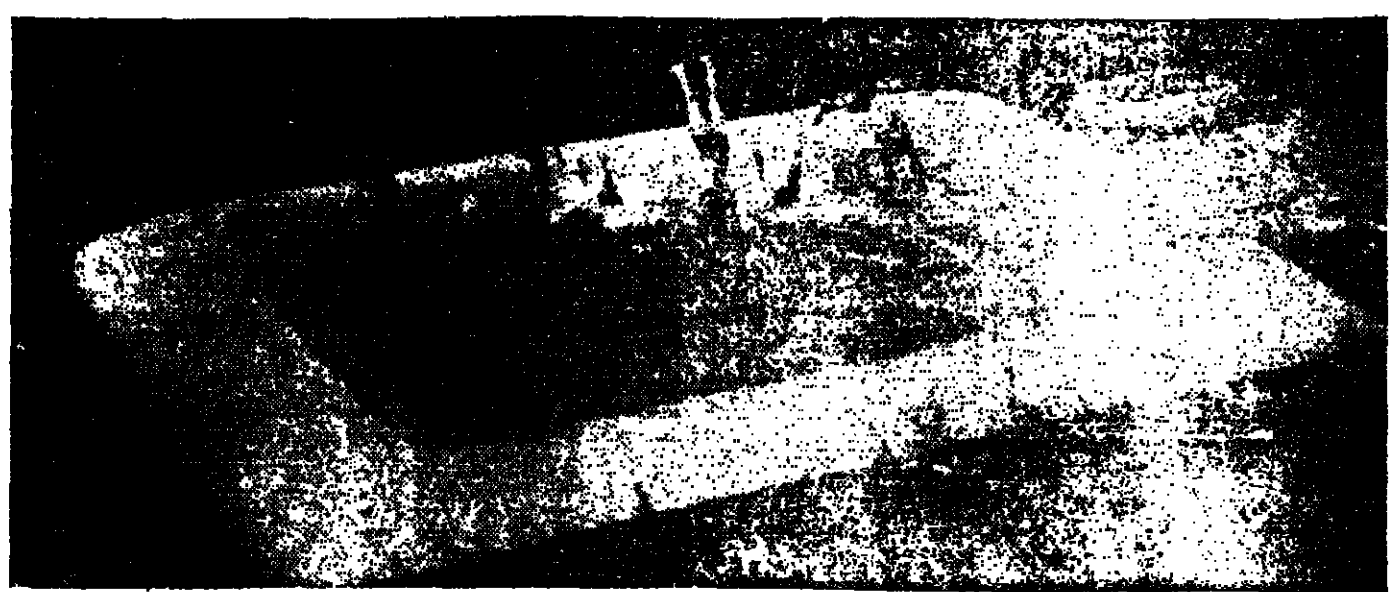
To give you some idea of weights and sizes, the largest pool of all, the Hippo 60 folds up into a package that measures 6 ft 6 ins by 2 ft 9 ins by 2 ft 1 ins and it weighs 485 lb.

Anybody interested in the Zodiac range should write to headquarters at 15 Scotia Close, Brackmills, Northampton for further details and for lists of garden centres that sell them.

## More pool news

If you already have a pool what you may need is some way of dealing with the flying insects and small bugs that swimmer's feet seem to attract.

Unipools is a company that specialises in all the complicated accoutrements and accessories that pools seem to require. From the U.S. they have brought over a



Zodiac's middle size family pool, the Hippo 35

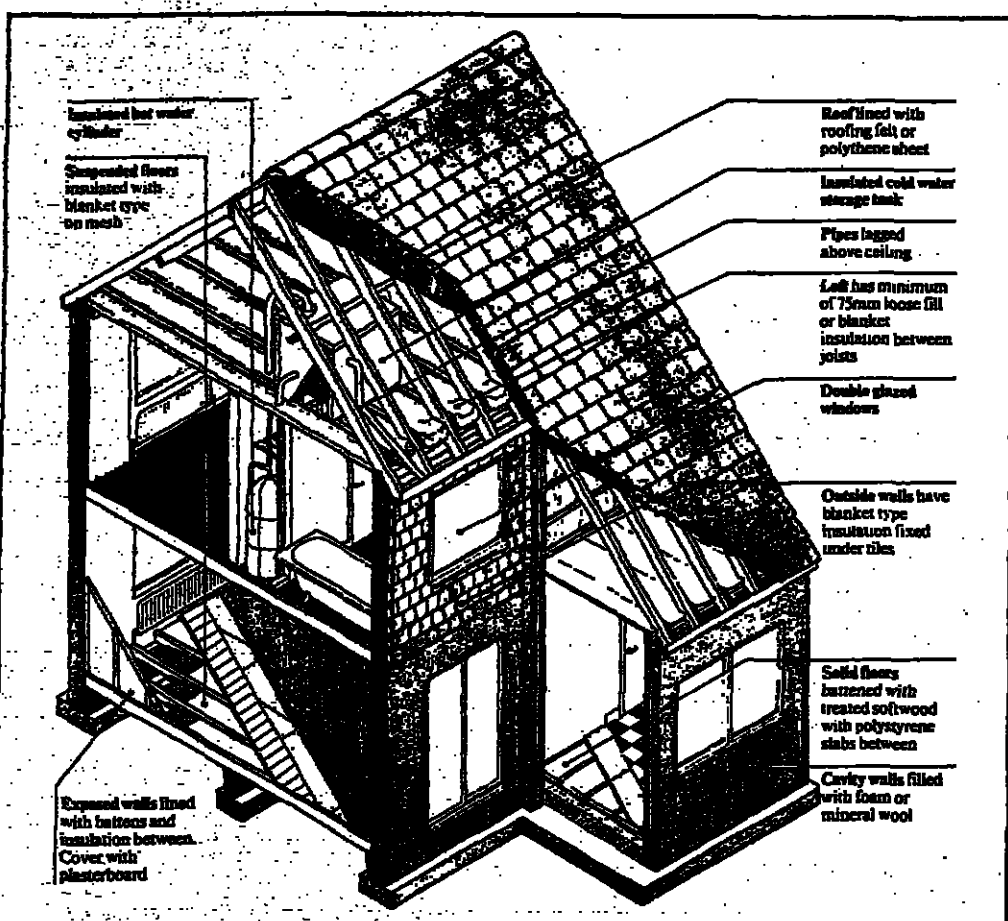
device which they call the Emerson Electronic Bug Killer. It is a device so simple and apparently so effective that some 3m were sold in the U.S. last year. The bug killer consists of a light that looks rather like a coachlight which you simply hang up to 50 ft from the patio or pool. It needs to be near an electric point as it must be plugged in but from then on it is totally trouble-free. It works, Unipools

tells me, by using an ultra violet light to attract flying insects to its centre where the electric grid kills them on contact.

There is an outer grid which prevents animals or small fingers from coming into contact with the charged inner grids. It isn't cheap—there are two models, one which costs £86.19 and is said to cope with half an acre's worth of flying insects, while the larger design is £140.30 and will

leave you with up to an acre of trouble free ground.

Both models come with a wall bracket but anybody wanting a fancier version can order a mounting pole, a lantern post and an automatic switch (comes on at sunset and goes off at sunrise) as well. Unipools will post the device—write to Unipools, 621 Watford Way, Mill Hill, London NW7 3JN.



The ways of preventing heat loss from the house have seldom been made clearer.

## Do-it-yourself made simple

EASTER SEEMS to be the magic marker that the big do-it-yourself companies look forward to eagerly each year. Then, so goes the commercial mythology, the closet do-it-yourself addicts come out, dust down their overalls, bring out their paint brushes, their drills and step-ladders and venture out into the big conglomerates (or even the corner hardware store) to set the tiles clanging as they buy their paints, their glues, their tools.

Anybody who avoids anything that smacks of do-it-yourself as resolutely as I do might have difficulty in believing that the rest of the world finds its so absorbing—if it weren't for the figures. They are incontrovertible. The biggest retail boom of the last decade has been in the field of do-it-yourself. So profitable has it been to sell the wherewithal to polish up the home that a new specialist do-it-yourself chains have been expanding at a breath-

taking rate. So good is business that over Easter stores like Homebase (Sainsbury's venture into the market) and Texas Homecare reckoned it was well worth their while to stay open all four days of the holiday.

Hand in hand with the proliferation of do-it-yourself shops and supermarket chains has come a growth in the amount of literature available. Most pleasing of all has been the notable rise not just in the quantity of the books but in the quality. Whereas once upon a time the implication was that if you went in for painting your own house and making your own kitchen cabinets you must have down-market taste to match, nowadays it is at last acknowledged that more people might like to do-it-themselves if lovely, examples of end-results were laid before them.

Anybody who has doubted that a guide could be both practical and aesthetically

pleasing should take a look at the Good Housekeeping Book of Home Improvements, just published in paperback by Ebury Press at £5.95.

Whether you want to do something as radical as re-wiring the whole house, updating the plumbing or building your own new kitchen, or whether you just want to know how to repair a window frame or put up a curtain rail, the book will show you how.

The book is copiously illustrated which, for anybody who has as little natural instinct for the work as I, is a must. Those who are old hands at all this sort of thing may scoff a little at being shown, in carefully drawn detail, exactly how to knock a nail into a floor but this kind of basic approach is exactly what the duffers like me are looking for.

The real enthusiast need not feel there is nothing in it for him or her for not only

are the techniques carefully explained but the book is full of ideas for improving almost every corner of the house. Whether it be just making cushions to perk up the colour-scheme of a tired-looking room or making a frame for a print you've never got around to hanging, the book will illustrate how in graphic detail.

Of all the rather large jobs that need to be done around the house, insulation must be one of the simplest to carry out (apart from cavity wall insulation) as well as being one that can make the most dramatic difference to one's comfort, not to mention to the fuel bills. Anybody who feels that this is a project they might consider tackling can see from the illustration, left, the kind of detailed visual material that the books go in for. All the various forms of insulation are discussed as well as the options for each particular area.

A look at the contents list gives a good idea of the range that is covered—Planning Your Home is the opening chapter and then it moves on to Interior Design, Decorative Finishes, Tools and Techniques, Cooking and Eating Areas, Leisure Areas, Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Children's Rooms, Storage, Work Areas and finishes off with One-Room Living.

Now that needs must and many of us who have spent a lifetime avoiding the merest contact with hammer or paint are having to think again, this is just the book we need. The projects all look interesting enough, the end results look desirable enough and the instructions clear enough at least to set me thinking that maybe one day even I might make friends with a sawplane. Napoleon, were he living today could well be calling us a nation of do-it-yourselfers.

## The rise and rise of the humble spud

BY JULIE HAMILTON

WITH A tickle of spring about, I am delighted to learn that I may eat potatoes and still lose weight in readiness for bikini days to come.

In fact, according to many of today's dieticians, the potato could be regarded as the slimmer's best friend. It provides bulk, vitamin B and C and the much-in-vogue fibre, so long as you eat it without any fat and still in its skin.

Best of all, I believe it to be the one vegetable that never becomes a bore. Try eating cabbage or lettuce or asparagus daily and they soon pall, but most of us enjoy a potato cooked one way or another almost every day.

It is as well to remember that vitamin C is easily destroyed; therefore take care not to cook your potatoes in a copper pan, not to re-heat them or keep them hot for a long time. If you are boiling them, first boil the water vigorously and then add the potatoes, always completely covering them with the water.

Baked potato bars, stalls and restaurants are proliferating all the time. What a wonderful idea they are. They make marvellously easy nourishing snacks. The other day, while fighting my way round one of those crowded international exhibitions, I fed my flagging energy with a baked spud stuffed with cottage cheese (only 200 calories) and felt quite satisfied and revitalised. The scope with jacket potatoes is enormous.

There are two basic methods. You can cook the potato, fully, have your stuffing ready, hot, if needs be, and simply cut open the cooked potato and spread the stuffing in it just before serving. Or you can very nearly cut the potato, or even parboil it if it is more convenient, cut it open, scoop out some of the insides, mix it with the chosen stuffing, replace it and finish the cooking in a hot oven.

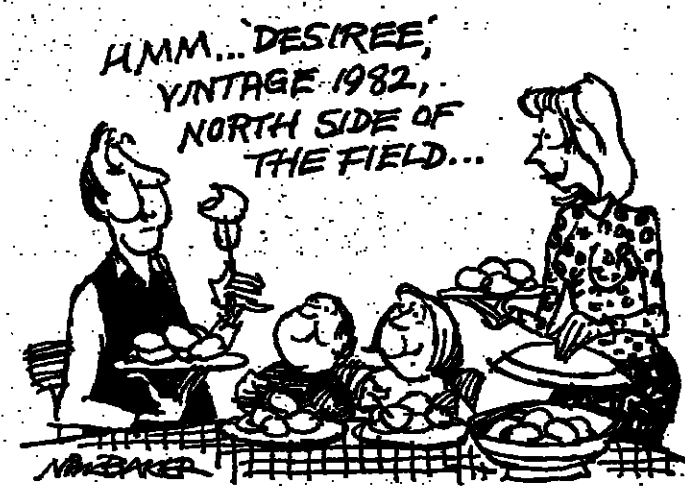
Potatoes treated this way are excellent for a light lunch or a supper dish, and all you need to add is a salad. You can also fall back on old favourites.

## BAKED POTATO WITH KIDNEY

1 kidney and 1 large potato per person; 1 oz butter per potato; 1/4 teaspoon milk per potato; salt and pepper.

Scrub and prick the potatoes, rub them all over with oil and salt and bake at gas mark 4 (350°F) for 1 1/2 hours. Carefully skin and remove the core from the kidneys, keeping them whole. Season them.

Cut a lid from the long side of each three-quarter cooked potato and gently scrape out the pulp. Make sure you do not damage the skin. Mix the milk



## BAKED POTATO AND CHICKEN LIVER

1 large potato and 1 chicken liver per person; 1 oz butter per person; a generous amount of fresh sage; 1 teaspoon each of cream and brandy per potato; salt and pepper.

Almost completely bake the potatoes. Chop the liver not too finely and sauté it in butter. Finely chop the sage and add it, season well with salt and pepper.

Cut a lid in each potato and scoop out three-quarters of the pulp and mash it with the cream. Fold in the lightly cooked liver and add the brandy at the same time. Stuff the potato shells with this mixture, replace the lids and bake in a fairly hot oven for about 15 minutes.

## SEAFOOD BAKED POTATO

4 shelled cooked prawns; 4 cooked mussels (out of

potato; 1 pinch dillweed per potato; 1 small chopped mushroom per potato; 1 teaspoon Parmesan per potato; 1 scant teaspoon paprika per potato; 1 scant teaspoon butter per potato.

Completely bake the potatoes. Melt the butter and add the paprika. Very gently fry the prawns, mussels and mushrooms, more to heat them through than to cook. Halve the potatoes and scoop out the insides and mash them. Add the sour cream, dillweed and anchovy to the prawns and mussels before combining with the mashed potato. Season well. Pile back into potato skins, sprinkle Parmesan on the top and heat through, either in a very hot oven or under the grill. Be careful not to overcook or the prawns will go hard.

Should you have some left-over roast lamb or beef and be contemplating shepherd's or cottage pie, why not make individual ones in the skins of large baked potatoes, using the mashed pulp to cover the meat? That way the very best part of the potato is not wasted.

As a vegetable dish to accompany game or a roast, you can take a baked potato, halve it and combine the scooped out pulp with herbs, sour cream and finely chopped celery. Season, replace and grill before serving. This is quite handy for entertaining as it can be pre-prepared and grilled at the last minute. This could be done with peppers or spring onions or mushrooms and chives

## PAN HAGGERTY Serves four

Have you ever heard of or eaten Pan Haggerty? The chances are that if you come from Newcastle or elsewhere in the north-east you could teach me an even better way of making it. For those who do not know, here is a very good recipe.

1 lb potatoes; 2 oz good beef dripping; 1 lb finely chopped onions; 4 oz grated cheese strong Cheddar is best; salt and black pepper.

Peel and grate the potatoes. Put them in a colander and wash under the cold tap. Tip into a clean tea towel and squeeze out as much liquid as possible. Melt half the dripping in a large frying pan and gently fry the onions until transparent, remove them from the pan.

Put a little of the remaining dripping in the frying pan and cover the whole pan with half the potatoes, spreading them evenly. Then tip the onions on top and do likewise. Season well and sprinkle on the cheese before covering with the rest of the potatoes.

The bottom should brown but not burn. Cover the frying pan with a flat dish or plate. Invert it quickly so as to turn out the half-cooked potato. Melt the remaining dripping and carefully slide the potato cake back into the pan to cook and brown the other side for about 10 to 15 minutes. To serve, slide the Pan Haggerty onto a warm, flat dish and at once cut like a cake.

## POTATO LETCHRO Serves six

The Hungarians have always had a way with potatoes (all vegetables, come to that). So here is an excellent sample that eliminates the need for any other accompanying vegetable. It would complement almost any meat, but especially chicken, either hot or cold.

1 1/2 lb potatoes; 1 large onion; 4 lb green peppers; 1 lb tomatoes; 2 oz lard or bacon dripping; 1 tablespoon sweet paprika; 1 teaspoon salt.

If the skins of the potatoes are good and not too thick, do not peel but simply scrub well and cube them. Finely chop the onions and lightly fry them in the lard in a heavy-based saucepan until transparent. Pull the pan off the heat and add the paprika and potatoes. Stir well, add the salt and about half a teaspoon of water. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Skin the tomatoes and slice them. Slice the green peppers into rounds, having removed the core and pips.

Add both to the potatoes; cover and cook for a further 15 to 20 minutes. Very simple and delicious. For complete supper dish, add chopped ham

## in Next week's FT

— How Hertz Europe saved £250,000 on its computing bills—on the Technology Page.

— Also on the Technology Page—software entrepreneurs from the kindergarten.

— Unipart shake-up seeks to counter down-turn in the components market—on the Management Page.

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WINE/COLLECTING

Tasting seventy-seven 1966 clarets

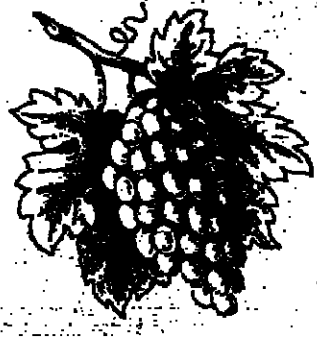
BY EDMUND PENNING-ROWSELL

THE 1966 clarets have generally been accepted as second in the decade only to the 'hors concours' 1961. After a normal, late-September vintage, an average quantity of red wine was produced for the period: 1,283,000 hl, which was less than the previous good vintage of 1964, or of its successor in 1967. For the first growths the success of the vintage was marked by a return after four years to something like the 1961 opening prices: up to FF 27,000 a tonneau (=1,200 bottles), but other popular classified growths such as Palmer, Léoville-Las Cases and Cos d'Estournel came out at much the same level as in 1964: at around FF 6,000.

At a time when consumers still generally waited to taste the wines when bottled there was no great rush to buy the 1966s. When first offered in bottle superior wines could be bought for £1 a bottle, and the important growths such as Ducru-Beaucailou and Palmer for £1.50 or less.

While the lighter 1967s were drunk, and the highly publicised 1970s and 1971s were bought up, the 1966s were left to develop. But when about ten years old — the time when it is appropriate to open a fine claret — they appeared closed up and dumb. This is not uncommon, owing to the tannin which makes the wine taste hard and somewhat acid. The St. Emilion and Pomerol were softer and more forthcoming.

There comes a point, however, when most vintages are expected to declare themselves, but the 1966s have tended to remain reticent, and their future has remained in doubt. To try to clear this up a mass tasting



to which I was invited, was recently held on the premises of Aveyers of Bristol. For the last five years a small group of wine merchants, several of them Masters of Wine, have met informally from time to time to consider various claret vintages. All from independent sources, they have met in turn in each others' offices, and this time in Bristol they assembled no fewer than 77 of the 1966s, all but one chateau-bottled. These included 38 of the Médoc classed growths, five Grand Cru Classés St. Emilion, and seven Pomerols on the level of classed growth if there were a classification there. This left 20 Médoc crus bourgeois or their equivalent in the other three main red Bordeaux districts.

The order of tasting worked

out very well, starting with some minor and bourgeois Médocs, continuing with second-rank St. Emillons, Pomerols and Graves, and then proceeding through the main Haut-Médoc communes, starting with Margaux and its environs and finishing with Pauillac. These were followed by ten "great wines" from all four districts, succeeded by seven first-growth, a loose voting system was based on one to 20, but I regarded this as too wide a range, although it was indicated that any vote under ten would indicate an out-of-condition wine. I tended to follow this, but not all tasters did. Nevertheless in the subsequent summing-up it appeared that there was fairly general agreement as to the relative quality of each wine.

This marathon tasting, in which, needless to say, expectation was the order of the day, took about 2½ hours, and to avoid too much disturbance of the wines by constant tipping up of the bottles, a half-filled glass was placed in front of each taster, and only replenished as needed.

For the minor bourgeois growths there was not much enthusiasm. Perhaps not too

lière was possible, but the very dry Médoc was probably a bad omen.

With the lesser Pomerols I liked the Lagrange best, as it had roundness and flavour, while the L'Enclos and Clos René, with colour and fruit, were agreeable in their class. Two wines that might have been expected to show well, Petit Villages and de Sales, were plainly out of condition.

Not only was the Domaine de Chevalier the best of the second-rank Graves, but the most distinctive well-balanced wine yet tasted. The Pape-Clement had some class but was rather tannic and dry.

With the classed-growth Margaux the general level improved, and for me the du Tertre rather surprisingly led the field, with good colour, fine bouquet and elegant flavour. Lighter but also well-balanced were Issan and the not-so-famous Durfort-Vivens. Rausan-Séla I preferred to Rausan-Gassies, but some did not much care for either.

The St-Julien standard was higher still, although few showed much in reserve. My choice of the second level was around-Larose, followed by Branaire-Ducru and Léoville-Barton, which had a good nose and was okay if a little bitter at the end. Beycheville had style too but was rather tannic, and Léoville-Poyferré was dry and lacked character. Cos d'Estournel led the St-Estèphes for me, followed by the traditionally austere Monrose.

Among the second-rank Pauillacs Pichon-Lalande was the clear winner: with fine aroma, distinguished, light but finely balanced. Next in order of quality came Grand-Puy-Lacoste,

Haut-Bataille, Mouton Baron Philippe and Haut-Bages-Libéral. Lynch-Bages may have been a poor bottle.

The "greats" were generally impressive. Ducru-Beaucailou was more open, rounder than the austere but classy Léoville-Las-Cases. La Mission-Haut-Brion was a big, bold, earthy Graves of distinction, and Figeac a fine flavoured St-Emilion. Palmer was full-coloured and fruity, but perhaps lacking a little complexity, and Trotanoy had much of the desirable Pomerol richness. Good too were the Les Fortis de Latour and the Carruades de Lafite.

It was, I believe, generally agreed that Latour led the first-growth, with big colour, full aroma and plenty of flavour and character. After that opinions may have varied, but I placed Lafite next, just ahead of Pétrus and Mouton-Rothschild, both of which may develop further. Cheval-Blanc though attractive to drink, lacked a little "class" and length of flavour. Although Haut-Brion came ahead of Margaux, then in a bad period, I believe I have drunk better bottles of this Graves, as it lacked some distinction.

Indeed opinions could only be based on single bottles of each wine, but the general conclusion of this extremely comprehensive tasting was somewhat disappointing. Up to the classed-growths the wines were past their best, and some of the latter too. The more successful, fuller bodied classed-growths were good but not great, and it would be difficult to predict that many would still improve. Which is not to say that they will quickly decline.

SPORT

Dominic Wigan previews today's Grand National  
More clouds over Aintree

THE GRAND NATIONAL has been with us since 1837 with only a break brought about by the Second World War (two First World War Nationals were run at Gatwick) but the race's future is by no means as secure as those details might suggest.

Unless the Grand National's £4m appeal target is reached or almost met by the May 1 deadline, it is still possible that the great spectacle watched and listened to by hundreds of millions worldwide will be lost for ever. At present, there is £2m in the kitty.

But although time is running out for them much faster than they would have liked, the four members of the staff at the Grand National campaign office are in surprisingly buoyant mood. "We have already got some £2m in cash and pledges," commented an enthusiastic spokesman yesterday from the Jockey Club campaign headquarters in London's Portman Square, as she dismissed any thoughts of the target not being reached.

The girl, who has worked solely on the project with her three colleagues since the beginning of last November — one of them has, in fact, been on the project for a year — went on to point out that 700 guests will be attending Monday's Grand National campaign ball at London's Rainbow Suite in Kensington High Street.

A sell-out at £25 a head, that evening's fund-raising could well get more money than the £42,000 realised as the result of the much-publicised sponsorship of the Jockey Club ride round Hyde Park's Serpentine last March.

But on the eve of the National, supporters of steeplechasing were discussing a new threat to their favourite sport. The Labour Party's latest policy document recommends a ban on foxhunting: if it ever became national policy it would change the face of National Hunt racing beyond recognition.

Were it not for the hunting field, the sport's supporters argue, many steeplechasing giants such as Grittar and Spartan Missile, who dominate today's Grand National betting, would not be seen at Aintree.



Grittar after winning last year's National

A brief survey of today's Grand National line-up shows that Grittar, Peaty Sandy, Williamson and Midday Welcome, are all trained by permit holders — small trainers who would be particularly hit if recruits from the hunting field were ever banned.

Grittar's remarkably easy victory of a year ago was the first "all amateur" win since the legendary Reynoldstown won a second successive National in 1938: when partnered by a 26-year-old rider — Fulke Walwyn.

Trained by one of Oakham's most respected hunting and point-to-pointing figures, Frank Gilman, whose main business is farming, Grittar was ridden in 1982 by Dick Saunders.

With the retirement of that rider who was enjoying his first and last ride in the great race

and an injury to the champion jockey elect, John Francome, Paul Barton, comes in for the ride on Grittar. I am confident it will be a prominent one.

However, the temptation of a more adventurous selection sways me towards Keengaddy, whose overall form suggests that he should not be available at twice the odds of Grittar.

Spartan Missile, who would have provided the permit-holding ranks with another National success, if his late owner, John Thorne (killed in a freak point-to-pointing fall) had been able to bring out the best in him on the long run-in two years ago, looks a shadow of his former self.

Handled by his late trainer's son-in-law, Nicky Henderson, Spartan Missile, had been plagued by injuries until only two or three months ago.

Keengaddy and five to watch

GRITTAR (5-1)

Paul Barton will be an able deputy for John Francome on the favourite and it is worth remembering that he has ridden the still young chaser once before.

KEENGADDY (14-1)

The one most fancied by Fulke Walwyn outside his own stable, Keengaddy is not only proven here at Aintree but is also in tremendous heart at present.

PEATY SANDY (14-1)

Another tough chaser, Peaty Sandy could become the first Scottish horse to win since Rubic in 1979. It was back in 1966 that another Scottish chaser, Freddie, was hacked from 10-1 to 11-4 on the day of the race. No such move is likely over Peaty Sandy.

SPARTAN MISSILE (6-1)

Had he been professionally ridden, Spartan Missile would undoubtedly have caught and passed Aidaniti and Bob Champion in the closing stages of the race a couple of years ago. But it is questionable whether he will ever quite recapture his brilliance.

Ben Wright reports on an old Master  
Arnie relights the candle

A MALIGNANT weather system, sweeping in from the West Coast, brought the U.S. Masters to a halt before the second round started in Augusta.

Georgia. The same storm had previously cut off New Orleans and the day's play at the Augusta National was postponed before the first players had gone out.

The Masters' chairman, Hord Hardin, said the storm covered Georgia and Louisiana and that the forecast showed no hope of improvement until midday today. He was prepared, he said, to break Masters' precedent and try to play the second round today and complete the championship with two rounds on Sunday.

It was the unusual luck of the leaders in the first round to be totally overshadowed by a 53-year-old golfer whose last championship victory was no less than 20 years ago, when he won in Augusta.

Jack Renner, Raymond Floyd and Dr Gil Morgan, represent a substantial amount of promise, colour and experience but when Arnold Daniel Palmer who goes round in 68, four under par, to lie second in a major championship, then the world, or that part of it represented by the American golfing public and press, goes into a state of near hysteria, or, as the Americans say, bananas.

The 67s of the leading trio were, largely ignored, as were to the 68 of amateur Jim Halset, Charles Coody and even that of former Masters' champion Severiano Ballesteros, whose post-round press interview was sparsely attended and marked mostly by acrimony.

He was asked if his game had improved since 1963 when he won "after" his questioner alleged "being all over the place."

There was a smile on Ballesteros' face as he replied, but the words were bitter. He based his American reputation as a wild man who can only scramble his way to victory. He has never forgotten the tag of "parking lot champion" stuck, ignorantly, on him by the American press after his Open Championship win at Royal Lytham St Annes in 1979.

"Why you look only for bad shots," he said. "Why you not look for good ones? When I win the Masters I was ten shots ahead with nine holes to play. I can't have been in the trees all the time."

longer than anyone else in the Masters' press room. His hour long interview, by upwards of 200 journalists, had its poignant steps of starting joggling, doing exercises and going more frequently to the practice tee.

"I run three miles, go to the office, hit balls all afternoon and then I sleep," he said, "very soundly. I want to win more than ever. There was a time in my forties when I was tired of golf. I needed to walk away; to relight the candle. Now my desire is rekindled and I am trying hard."

He was asked if he could win, and there was a flash from the by now bespectacled, comfortable looking Palmer. "Damn right I can," he said.

The leaders got into position in their various ways, with Renner eagling both the long holes on the way home, the 13th and 15th. Floyd claimed not to be bothered by his 67, claiming that he laid little stress on first rounds. Morgan winner of two tournaments this year, and of \$100,000 in seven straight years, is clearly a factor who could be around come Sunday night.

The defending champion, Craig Stadler, is only two behind having had five birdies in the last seven holes while the best British score came from Nick Faldo, with a 70.

Peter Oosterhuis had a one over par 73 but Sandy Lyle who has looked so promising in practice, disappointed. He had no sooner got back to the level par with a birdie at the 15th, than he deposited his tee shot at the short 16th in the water.

A missal Apocalypse in miniature

BY JANET MARSH

THE INDUSTRIOUS John Ruskin recorded in his diary one day in 1834: "Cut missal up in evening — hard work." He was by no means alone in this well-meant act of vandalism. For centuries connoisseurs considered that the exquisite work of the medieval miniaturists appeared much more handsome when removed from the dry old texts: the pictures were meant to illustrate, and tastefully mounted in their albums.

One such album was assembled by the painter and dealer Peter Birmann early in the 19th century for a Swiss collector, Daniel Burckhardt-Wildt. It contained no less than 475 illuminated clippings; and its contents provide the major part of what Sotheby's reckon to be the largest auction of cuttings from medieval manuscripts ever held. (With charming modesty, the director of Sotheby's medieval manuscripts department concedes that a sale held in 1825 may be its closest rival.)

The most important discovery in the collection is a series of 77 illustrations from a 13th-century Apocalypse. Their appearance is an event of such moment

for medievalists that before dispersal they have been put on exhibition in New York, Sydney and York, England, where they were probably painted about 1270. They may well realise an aggregate price in the region of £500,000 at the sale on April 25.

The Biblical vision of the Apocalypse in the Revelations of St John fulfilled a very similar function for people of the Middle Ages to that which science fiction does today. The customary form of a science fiction story or film is to suppose the ominous tendencies of our own times escalating to a point of cosmic catastrophe. But beyond the catastrophe there is always some vestigial remains of civilisation (Our Hero and Heroine, for example) to afford some promise of the world's renewal.

Not too dissimilar, the Revelations of St John presented a vision of present human misery leading to cataclysmic horror and the rule of Antichrist. The dramatic intervention of God, however, produced the overthrow of the powers of darkness, and the elevation of the righteous faithful to Heaven.

St John, an exile on the Isle of Patmos, intended the book as comfort for fellow victims in the conflict of the Christian Church and the Roman state. Churchmen of the early middle ages were somewhat dubious about the authority of the Revelations, but the book's popularity persisted and reached a peak in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It fulfilled a need. The public of the 1980s submits to the fictions of Star Wars or E.T. because they afford alternative visions to the threat of nuclear war. The world of the thirteenth century looked to St John's Revelations for comparable reassurance in the face of threats and happenings in their own way no less fearful.

Pestilence and strife were everywhere. The English king had slain St Thomas à Becket; there was civil war in Germany and conflict between the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor; there were crusades against both the followers of Mahomet and the heretics of Toulouse. The riders of the Apocalypse — the Black Horse of Famine and the Pale Horse of Death — were familiar enough to all.

It was easy to believe that the end of the world was close; and Revelations provided clues to divine the exact time of it. Prophets had confidently calculated that the world would end in 1260. The grand finale would be preceded by a three-and-a-half year reign by the Antichrist in the guise of a secular monarch.

By the middle of the century everyone was looking for a suitable candidate for the Antichrist. The favourite was the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, but he disobligingly died in 1250. Time passed. The year 1260 came and went, and the world did not end. People breathed again.

Attitudes towards the Apocalypse changed, though it retained its hold upon the popular imagination. With the end of the world in prospect it had been a text of both awful portent and divine comfort. Now that the immediate urgency had passed, however, the aristocratic public and the artists they patronised began to appreciate how close was the Apocalypse to the fashionable literature of the day. St John, quite like Chrétien de Troyes, supplied thrilling tales of heroic knights, unfortunate ladies, desperate battles, monsters, magic and mysteries.

Because of its popularity with the laity, Revelations was the first Biblical book to be translated from Latin into vernacular French and Middle English. The text became a great favourite with the illuminators of manuscripts; almost 100 illustrated Apocalypses created be-

tween the 13th and 15th centuries exist, complete or in fragmentary form, in public collections. Very many of them were evidently made for lay patrons rather than for monastic use.

The newly discovered Buckhard-Wildt Apocalypse stands high among them for the quality of its painting. Still brilliant in their original blue, orange, green and creamy-brown colouring, the miniatures have enormous energy and charm. They are rich in details of contemporary life. The representatives of good are depicted with slim, Gothic elegance; the creatures of evil stir the painter's imagination to a manner somewhere between medieval gargoyles and Tennyson's illustrations to Alice.

We can glimpse, still vivid and vital after 700 years, the Apocalyptic vision as M. R. James — as notable a medievalist as a writer of ghost stories — described it: "The panorama of tremendous signs in the heavens, heavens which opened ever and anon to show a supreme throne and venerable shapes around it; of monstrous forces of evil looming up to dominate a frightful world; of colossal cavaliers advancing to destroy them; of the blare of trumpets, the voice of thunders, the ringing of harps; and of one great final convulsion and purging of all things, out of which rises the Golden City, watered by the shining river, shaded by the trees of life, illumined — most wonderfully — by a Lamb as it had been slain..."

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, 525 3191, 525 3192, 525 3193, 525 3194, 525 3195, 525 3196, 525 3197, 525 3198, 525 3199, 525 3200, 525 3201, 525 3202, 525 3203, 525 3204, 525 3205, 525 3206, 525 3207, 525 3208, 525 3209, 525 3210, 525 3211, 525 3212, 525 3213, 525 3214, 525 3215, 525 3216, 525 3217, 525 3218, 525 3219, 525 3220, 525 3221, 525 3222, 525 3223, 525 3224, 525 3225, 525 3226, 525 3227, 525 3228, 525 3229, 525 3230, 525 3231, 525 3232, 525 3233, 525 3234, 525 3235, 525 3236, 525 3237, 525 3238, 525 3239, 525 3240, 525 3241, 525 3242, 525 3243, 525 3244, 525 3245, 525 3246, 525 3247, 525 3248, 525 3249, 525 3250, 525 3251, 525 3252, 525 3253, 525 3254, 525 3255, 525 3256, 525 3257, 525 3258, 525 3259, 525 3260, 525 3261, 525 3262, 525 3263, 525 3264, 525 3265, 525 3266, 525 3267, 525 3268, 525 3269, 525 3270, 525 3271, 525 3272, 525 3273, 525 3274, 525 3275, 525 3276, 525 3277, 525 3278, 525 3279, 525 3280, 525 3281, 525 3282, 525 3283, 525 3284, 525 3285, 525 3286, 525 3287, 525 3288, 525 3289, 525 3290, 525 3291, 525 3292, 525 3293, 525 3294, 525 3295, 525 3296, 525 3297, 525 3298, 525 3299, 525 3300, 525 3301, 525 3302, 525 3303, 525 3304, 525 3305, 525 3306, 525 3307, 525 3308, 525 3309, 525 3310, 525 3311, 525 3312, 525 3313, 525 3314, 525 3315, 525 3316, 525 3317, 525 3318, 525 3319, 525 3320, 525 3321, 525 3322, 525 3323, 525 3324, 525 3325, 525 3326, 525 3327, 525 3328, 525 3329, 525 3330, 525 3331, 525 3332, 525 3333, 525 3334, 525 3335, 525 3336, 525 3337, 525 3338, 525 3339, 525 3340, 525 3341, 525 3342, 525 3343, 525 3344, 525 3345, 525 3346, 525 3347, 525 3348, 525 3349, 525 3350, 525 3351, 525 3352, 525 3353, 525 3354, 525 3355, 525 3356, 525 3357, 525 3358, 525 3359, 525 3360, 525 3361, 525 3362, 525 3363, 525 3364, 525 3365, 525 3366, 525 3367, 525 3368, 525 3369, 525 3370, 525 3371, 525 3372, 525 3373, 525 3374, 525 3375, 525 3376, 525 3377, 525 3378, 525 3379, 525 3380, 525 3381, 525 3382, 525 3383, 525 3384, 525 3385, 525 3386, 525 3387, 525 3388, 525 3389, 525 3390, 525 3391, 525 3392, 525 3393, 525 3394, 525 3395, 525 3396, 525 3397, 525 3398, 525 3399, 525 3400, 525 3401, 525 3402, 525 3403, 525 3404, 525 3405, 525 3406, 525 3407, 525 3408, 525 3409, 525 3410, 525 3411, 525 3412, 525 3413, 525 3414, 525 3415, 525 3416, 525 3417, 525 3418, 525 3419, 525 3420, 525 3421, 525 3422, 525 3423, 525 3424, 525 3425, 525 3426, 525 3427, 525 3428, 525 3429, 525 3430, 525 3431, 525 3432, 525 3433, 525 3434, 525 3435, 525 3436, 525 3437, 525 3438, 525 3439, 525 3440, 525 3441, 525 3442, 525 3443, 525 3444, 525 3445, 525 3446, 525 3447, 525 3448, 525 3449, 525 3450, 525 3451, 525 3452, 525 3453, 525 3454, 525 3455, 525 3456, 525 3457, 525 3458, 525 3459, 525 3460, 525 3461, 525 3462, 525 3463, 525 3464, 525 3465, 525 3466, 525 3467, 525 3468, 525 3469, 525 3470, 525 3471, 525 3472, 525 3473, 525 3474, 525 3475, 525 3476, 525 3477, 525 3478, 525 3479, 525 3480, 525 3481, 525 3482, 525 3483, 525 3484, 525 3485, 525 3486, 525 3487, 525 3488, 525 3489, 525 3490, 525 3491, 525 3492, 525 3493, 525 3494, 525 3495, 525 3496, 525 3497, 525 3498, 525 3499, 525 3500, 525 3501, 525 3502, 525 3503, 525 3504, 525 3505, 525 3506, 525 3507, 525 3508, 525 3509, 525 3510, 525 3511, 525 3512, 525 3513, 525 3514, 525 3515, 525 3516, 525 3517, 525 3518, 525 3519, 525 3520, 525 3521, 525 3522, 525 3523, 525 3524, 525 3525, 525 3526, 525 3527, 525 3528, 525 3529, 525 3530, 525 3531, 525 3532, 525 3533, 525 3534, 525 3535, 525 3536, 525 3537, 525 3538, 525 3539, 525 3540, 525 3541, 525 3542, 525 3543, 525 3544, 525 3545, 525 3546, 525 3547, 525 3548, 525 3549, 525 3550, 525 3551, 525 3552, 525 3553, 525 3554, 525 3555, 525 3556, 525 3557, 525 3558, 525 3559, 525 3560, 525 3561, 525 3562, 525 3563, 525 3564, 525 3565, 525 3566, 525 3567, 525 3568, 525 3569, 525 3570, 525 3571, 525 3572, 525 3573, 525 3574, 525 3575, 525 3576, 525 3577, 525 3578, 525 3579, 525 3580, 525 3581, 525 3582, 525 3583, 525 3584, 525 3585, 525 3586, 525 3587, 525 3588, 525 3589, 525 3590, 525 3591, 525 3592, 525 3593, 525 3594, 525 3595, 525 3596, 525 3597, 525 3598, 525 3599, 525 3600, 525 3601, 525 3602, 525 3603, 525 3604, 525 3605, 525 3606, 525 3607, 525 3608, 525 3609, 525 3610, 525 3611, 525 3612, 525 3613, 525 3614, 525 3615, 525 3616, 525 3617, 525 3618, 525 3619, 525 3620, 525 3621, 525 3622, 525 3623, 525 3624, 525 3625, 525 3626, 525 3627, 525 3628, 525 3629, 525 3630, 525 3631, 525 3632, 525 3633, 525 3634, 525 3635, 525 3636, 525 3637, 525 3638, 525 3639, 525 3640, 525 3641, 525 3642, 525 3643, 525 3644, 525 3645, 525 3646, 525 3647, 525 3648, 525 3649, 525 3650, 525 3651, 525 3652, 525 3653, 525 3654, 525 3655, 525 3656, 525 3657, 525 3658, 525 3659, 525 3660, 525 3661, 525 3662, 525 3663, 525 3664, 525 3665, 525 3666, 525 3667, 525 3668, 525 3669, 525 3670, 525 3671, 525 3672, 525 3673, 525 3674, 525 3675, 525 3676, 525 3677, 525 3678, 525 3679, 525







Arthur Sandles looks at the prospects for Britain's hotel industry

# Spring again in Park Lane

Signs that 1983 could be a boom year for Britain's hard-pressed hotel industry are borne out by occupancy rates at some of London's luxury hotels. But there is little cheer so far for seaside hoteliers



to attribute 43 per cent of its average costs per room to catering. But catering provides only 12 per cent of profits. In New York the comparable figures are 23 per cent of costs and 16 per cent of revenue.

The ETB view seemed to be that European hoteliers generally should pull out of the food business as much as possible—a conclusion bound to irritate Lord Forte, with his huge catering interests. The report noted that British and European hoteliers seemed to want restaurants that reflected the high standards elsewhere in their establishments rather than possibly adopting a fast food approach or even contracting out the catering operation.

This sort of advice would go down like a lead balloon in the Savoy, whose revamped restaurant and elegant grill are still pretty busy spots, or at the Dorchester where chef Andre Moussiman is trying to take away the Gaiety's lead in the Michelin league as the best restaurant in Mayfair. Indeed, the hoteliers of Park Lane seem to be spending more money on restaurant facilities, rather than less.

The leading investor in a multiplicity of restaurants in London hotels is in fact the American-owned Hilton. It now boasts five restaurants when two is the norm on Park Lane. For sheer spending, however, the prizes probably go to the Dorchester, whose new restaurant and piano bar area was part of a massive refurbishment reportedly costing £5m plus, and the Grosvenor House where Lord Forte's team have been working hard to make the Park Lane frontage a high spot of West End dining.

All the hoteliers on the strip, who are the apparent views of operators in the U.S. and Europe in believing that customers are less and less eager to venture into town, and

a night each should get £10,000 when full, in fact, regular corporate customers, airline crews, tour groups and hotel staff all get special rates. Bookings that come through travel agents also attract commission.

On a published rate of say £30 per room, to achieve average real revenue of £65 would be pretty good going. The Park Lane leader over the past few years has been the Canadian-owned Inn on the Park. Last summer a careful non-group shopper could have got £5 off the Savoy's £70 official price, £7 off the Intercontinental's £64 and as much as £12 off the Dorchester's £75 for a single room.

A major problem for the London hotelier is that his basic costs appear to be considerably higher than in the case in other major cities. This was the finding of a report prepared for the London Tourist Board by Funnell, Kerr Forster. The report, which was frank about the apparent pricing problems of the British hotel business led a waspish private exchange between THF's Lord Forte and

Mr Michael Montague, the ETB chairman.

It identified two particular problems for UK hotels compared with American and European ones: the costs of building (not, it should be noted, the cost of land) and an unimpressive performance in restaurant profitability.

The report criticised Britain's lengthy tendering and construction processes and described how other countries had carved through the site rivalries of architects, engineers and main contractors.

It also pointed to site rules in Britain which limit a London hotel developer, like his Paris counterpart, to a floor area between two and five times his site area. A New York hotelier can go up to 15 times the site area and sometimes even up to 30. This puts the relative land cost fairly in New York's favour—land for a London room is currently estimated at around £20,000, but perhaps £2,500 less in New York.

Moreover, the average five-star hotel in London can expect

AS SPRING sunshine highlights the gleaming yellow of Hyde Park's daffodils, the hoteliers who run the glossy establishments along Park Lane opposite are contemplating what looks like being their busiest summer season for years. This, after all, seems set to be the year that the Americans return.

With the pound hovering around \$1.50 Britain is winning back its image as a bargain for foreign tourists.

Even at the top end of the market Britain is competitive again. Five years ago a room at the London Hilton cost a U.S. visitor \$75 a night, while the New York Hilton's charge for a similar mid-range room was just over \$60 (taxes included in both cases). Today the rates are just about level pegging at around \$120 in both cities.

For the British hotel business generally the combined effects of a strong pound and world recession were disastrous. The bed occupancy for London hotels dipped from a healthy 65 per cent average in 1978 to 54 per cent a year later as sterling rose steadily to the £2 mark and beyond. In 1981 the rate dropped to 46 per cent.

In other parts of the country the drop was even more worrying. Yorkshire hoteliers saw average bed occupancies fall to 32 per cent and in the North-West business was so bad in 1981 that the average hotel only filled 29 per cent of its available beds throughout the year.

The English Tourist Board, which collates the figures, will be publishing the 1982 statistics later this month. They will show that in some places things are getting better. London's bed occupancy has climbed up two points in the year and hoteliers in the West Country, Northumbria and Yorkshire all saw better figures. But there is bad news for the South and

South-East, the Thames and Chilterns, and Cumbria, where there was a further decline in business. In East Anglia trade was stagnant.

The remarkable story, however, is the way in which the Park Lane strip has made a comeback. The heart of the capital's de luxe hotel market, this runs from Grosvenor House, the imposing flagship of Trusthouse Forte, in an area that continues through Hyde Park Corner, with its modern towers of the Hilton and the Intercontinental, into Knightsbridge, home of the Sheraton Skyline and another THF property, the Hyde Park.

Together with a scattering of luxury hotels elsewhere—the Ritz, the Savoy, Claridges and the Connaught among them—these establishments have been enjoying a rising rate of business for the past two years.

The higher tariff hotels of London increased their occupancy rates by 8 per cent last year and the indications are that these hotels at the very top end of the market did even better.

The news on receipts may not, however, be quite as good. For the past two years the nation's hoteliers, including those in London, have not succeeded in edging up room rates in line with inflation. On top of that, there has been extensive discounting.

At the moment it looks as if 1983 might see the prices published by hoteliers in their brochures and the prices actually paid by the average customer, come much closer together.

Certainly the Park Lane managers say it is a matter that they are much more able to achieve something near the published price (some say they never have discontinued). In theory, a hotel with 100 rooms officially priced at £100

quickly adding that "no disrespect is intended."

Gordon looks an unlikely crime buster. He is a dapper 64 and has worked since 1936 at Lloyd's, the insurance market, where he is an underwriter. His father was also a Lloyd's man.

"I insure cash in vehicles and cash in vaults," he said and he is the underwriter who had led the Lloyd's insurance market on the Security Express account.

The reward is not the normal 10 per cent of the value of the stolen property, because at the time I thought of the amount, we did not know how much had been stolen. We still don't. I thought the loss was going to be £5m. So I decided on £500,000. Had I known the loss was going to be over £7m I would have still chosen £500,000 as an appropriate figure.

Mr Gordon and his fellow underwriters believe that it makes more sense to pay a reward of £500,000 which would

lead to a recovery of the stolen money, rather than pay out £7m or so in insurance claims made against underwriters by Security Express.

"The reward will only be paid if I get a recovery," he said, "and of course I could get a recovery without the reward being paid. I would not pay any reward without consulting the police."

It is the largest reward he has ever offered, although he could not easily recall the last time he had to make such a gesture. He intends to make disbursements only if the police recommend it. "I will be as fair as I can."

Gordon has a nice line in self-deprecating humour. "Have you read this?" he asked showing me a hardback book called All I know about insurance, a tome where he appeared to be the author. He opened it. It was full of blank pages.

But underneath the charm he has a professional enthusiasm for his job as underwriter at the C. I. de Rougemont and

Company underwriting agency. He also sits on a number of crime prevention committees. Of the reward system he says: "It can loosen tongues and can loosen the wrong tongues because of greed. The informer need not necessarily be someone who needs the money."

He cited one example of somebody informing in a case because the person concerned was having an affair with the informer's wife. "Information does not necessarily come from somebody who lives under Charing Cross Bridge."

Gordon and other underwriters have recruited their own gumshoes—as is usual in these circumstances—in the form of loss adjusters, Robert Bishop. That firm is preparing a report for underwriters on the loss. Had Gordon been to the scene of the crime? "I don't go out of the premises. I use a loss adjuster. There is nothing to gain by it."

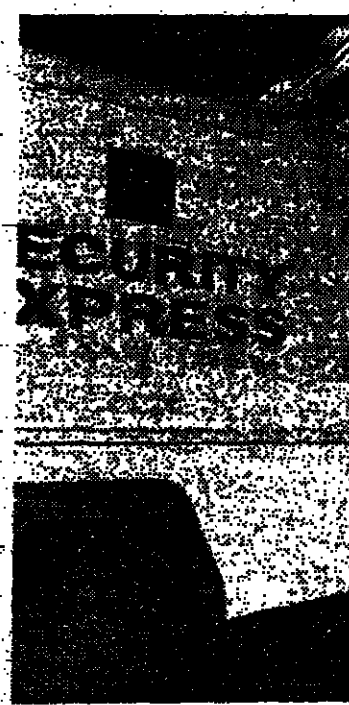
If there is any payout it will be shared around the other underwriters which have insured the risk. The cost will not be borne by Gordon alone. The 200 or so wealthy individuals which form the syndicate at Lloyd's, where Gordon accepts business on their behalf, will also bear the cost along with other Lloyd's syndicates who have insured a part of the Security Express business. "I welcome losses," said Gordon, "they make more people insure."

brochure to find out how cash in bulk moves around the country in security vans. "The money moves from Royal Mint to banks, where it is collected for employers to pay their workforce. This is the first link," says the brochure.

"Wives of the workers spend part of that money in the High Street, and once again it is collected from the shops and returned to the banks—the second link." The brochure goes on to assure potential customers of the security of holding wages, shop-takings and other money overnight or over weekends in the vaults of some of its centres.

Mr Wheeler estimates that the security companies' vans carry annually between £70bn and £75bn of cash in nearly 2,500 high security vehicles. In simple statistical terms the robbery represents only 0.0001 per cent of this total except that the £7m, if not stolen, would have been travelling to and from many times a year.

If the robbers have started spending the money, some of it may have already returned to the circuit.



A Security Express van being unloaded.

This week's £7m haul is the first robbery from a security company's depot in Britain and it indicates a possible change in tactics by organised crime. The major security companies involved in cash transport—Security Express, Group 4, Mint Security, Armour-guard and PPR Security—are now overhauling the robber-proof arrangements at their own depots, where many van loads of cash are often stored overnight, during weekends and over long Bank holidays.

Mr John Wheeler, MF, director general of the British Security Industry Association, says that there are "six or seven" London depots of security companies where cash is held in vaults. Throughout the country there are many more. Securicor, the leading security company, for example, has between 50 and 60 purpose-built depots in Britain, although many are not money-holding buildings.

Any master criminal has only to look at a Securicor

The Football League gave the go-ahead to QPR's experiment for three seasons. At the end of next season a lot of clubs are expected to gang up on QPR to insist they go back to real grass. Though there is nothing in the rules of soccer to say that the game must be played on grass, the League has added Regulation 65 to its statute book. "Matches must not be played on synthetic or artificial surfaces without prior written approval of the management committee after full consultation with all member clubs."

But the problem does not end there. Supposing QPR goes from success to success in the First Division next season and qualifies for European competitions, foreign clubs would refuse to play on the synthetic turf and home games would have to be played on another London

pitch has got QPR cruising into Division 1. It helped them to the Cup Final last year for the first time in their history and they were unlikely to lose. So clubs object to it! But how different is it from doctored wickets in cricket or the kind of grass grounds we sometimes have to play away games on, grounds that distinctly favour the home club?

As it happens, QPR's away record in the past season has been pretty good, too. But some opposing clubs say that the ground they practise and play at home on—giving the ball an entirely different bounce than on a grass surface—gives them an unfair advantage. The controversy is a slight setback to companies like Omnisport, making and marketing artificial sports surfaces, particularly in countries where

Contributors: John Moore

## Weekend Brief

### The man behind the £500,000 reward

Robert Gordon, the man who is offering the biggest reward in the history of crime, tapped his head and said: "The idea came from here."

He is the man who is prepared to pay out £500,000 for information which will lead to the arrest of those who have taken £7m from Security Express, the security firm, in Britain's biggest robbery—fire of bank notes.

I found him in his office on the sixth floor of the Corn Exchange building, in the heart of the City, poring over copies of the Daily Star, the Daily Mirror and the Sun where the reward notice was due to appear.

He looked up. "Their readers are the type of people who can help me," he said, "rather than readers of the Daily Telegraph, Times or Financial Times."

### Changing pattern of Britain's big robberies

With every attempt by the Exchequer to plug the loopholes in the laws permitting legal tax evasion, specialists try to find another weakness in the barrier and usually find one. In an illegal case, this is what criminals have achieved. This week with the £7m robbery from the Security Express depot in London.

The security companies, together with the police and a network of informants, have been successful in recent years in reducing the number of successful attacks on cash vans on the roads. Cash grab attempts have increased instead at customers' premises, where the money is handed over.

A Fleet Street newspaper was a recent victim of this type of crime, and obviously security precautions are being tightened up at all organisations where large amounts of cash are delivered regularly.

### QPR may return to its grass roots

Terry Venables, former England footballer and now manager of Queen's Park Rangers, was co-author of a soccer novel called They Used to Play On Grass. That was some years ago. Now it seems that his club, the only one in the Football League playing on an artificial surface, may have to go back to grass.

QPR are almost certain to go into the First Division next season. Their synthetic pitch, installed at Loftus Road, West London by Omnisport at a cost of £900,000, has said no to

## Economic Diary

TODAY: Democratic Unionist Party conference, Belfast.

TOMORROW: Mr Francis Pym, Foreign Secretary, starts visit to Abu Dhabi (to April 12).

MONDAY: Banking Insurance and Finance Union conference opens, Blackpool (to April 13).

Royal College of Nursing conference opens, Bournemouth (to April 15).

MANPOWER SERVICES: Commission statement on strategy for adult training.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Council meets, Millbank, SW1.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: session opens, Strasbourg (to April 15).

TUESDAY: Building societies' monthly figures for March. Provisional figures of vehicle pro-

duction in March. Audit Commission statement.

SIR Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaks at Westminster Chamber of Commerce lunch, International Hotel, W1.

BREAKFAST: railmen's union, Federation of Professional Staff, elects leaders.

SECOND READING OF MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL PROVISIONS Bill in the Commons.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: debates European summit and human rights in the Soviet Union.

WEDNESDAY: Central Government transactions, including

borrowing requirement for March. Fourth quarter index of industrial production for Wales.

ENERGY INDUSTRIES Council: two-day conference on energy to the year 2000 opens in Brighton.

FUTURE: financing of the ECU; debate at European Parliament.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Newspaper Press Fund reception, Guildhall.

THURSDAY: UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock in mid-March. London dollar sterling certificates of deposit for mid-March. National Union of Mineworkers' executive

meets, London. Mr Francis Pym, Foreign Secretary, speaks at American Chamber of Commerce lunch, Hilton Hotel, W1.

Mr Helmut Kohl, West German Chancellor, meets President Ronald Reagan for nuclear arms talks, Washington. Second reading of Finance Bill, and debate on NHS dental and optical charges, Commons.

EUROPEAN Parliament debates consumer and environment questions, including lead in petrol.

FRIDAY: February provisional index of industrial production. Usable steel production in March. Fourth quarter final figures of finished steel consumption and stock changes.

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## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Lyle Shipping plunges to £4.8m losses: cuts payout

FOLLOWING A fall from operating profits of £4.8m to losses of £4.8m by the shipping division and a £3.4m provision against future losses, Lyle Shipping plunged to taxable losses of £4.79m in 1982, compared with profits of £6.71m.

The final dividend is being cut from 5.5p to 3p net per 25p share making a lower total of 7.5p (10p) for each share as given as 51.8p (75.9p earnings) on a net basis.

The directors say recovery of the shipping division's results depends wholly on an increase in freight rates but unfortunately delivery of more bulk cargoes from the world's shipyards continues at far too high a level throughout 1983. These ships were ordered against expectations of a boom in civil shipments which has not yet happened.

At the same time the world recession became more severe and many ships have been laid up for lack of profitable work they report. Much of the problem for dry bulk shipping has been caused by the reduction in steel output worldwide.

Although there are some signs of a recovery in the world economy helped by the fall in oil prices, and industrial output is beginning to rise again, the overhang of laid-up ships and new build-ups will delay the benefits for the company's type of ship.

The directors cannot, therefore, see any substantial recovery in freight rates taking place in 1983, but would expect to see an upturn in 1984. History shows that when the oil prices can be held in check, and sudden they comment. Ship values are likely to rise in advance, and indeed since the year end a substantial improvement has taken place.

Turnover slipped from £26.49m from £24.1m to £21.35m and the dividend is stepped up from 0.55p to 0.80p net per 25p share. Loss per share is given as 1.4p, compared with earnings of 0.25p last time.

Tax charges amounted to £812,000, against £582,000, but there were unrealised exchange gains for the period of £1.73m (£1.52m). After minority interests, the company's net profit is £1.52m (£1.52m), and an extraordinary credit of £740,000 (£1.52m debit), there was an attributable profit of £1.45m, much higher than the previous year's £81,000.

Referring to the announcement yesterday by Saxon Oil of the company's decision to withdraw from the merger with Clyde, the directors of Clyde say they believe that its offer for Saxon is generous, which, when agreed with the Saxon board, specifically accounted for the possibility of a commercial oil discovery in Block 16/8b. No information on well 16/8b has

been made available to Clyde or other Saxon shareholders which could justify a change in terms previously agreed, they state.

The benefits of the merger, recognising the possibility of a commercial oil discovery, were fully explained by Saxon's chairman in his letter of recommendation, directors point out.

On the basis of Clyde's share price on April 7 the offer values each Saxon share at £21.5m. This compares with Saxon's share price of 60p on the day preceding that on which the merger was announced — March 8 — an increase of over 100 per cent.

Clyde believes that, in the absence of the offer the Saxon share price "would fall significantly below that level".

The Clyde board and its financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell and Co continue to believe that the offer "fully values Saxon and its prospects, and urge shareholders to accept the offer as soon as possible."

will show up only in the second half. But the underlying trading position in pharmaceuticals has also improved by perhaps 30 per cent over 1981. Rantidone's share of the anti-ulcer market has soared throughout the world, but most notably in Italy. Launch costs in West Germany will have kept profits down there, but sales of all products have risen by 50 per cent in the recently penetrated U.S. market.

Other products such as the anti-asthmatic, Ventolin, and the cardiovascular Transdane, have also made a major contribution to the increase in turnover. A lifting of the dividend perhaps by 20 per cent, is also anticipated, in expectation of a year-end pre-tax profit figure of £200m plus.

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Company	Current payment	Date	Corres. Total	Total
			dividend	year
			year	year
Arcol Electric	0.3	—	0.5	0.5
Chepstow Racecourse	—	—	—	—
Clyde Petroleum	0.21	—	0.55	0.55
Dinky Heel	0.65	—	0.2	0.4
J. E. England	0.44	June 10	0.88	0.88
Lyle Shipping	—	—	5.5	5.5
Nth. Brit. Canadian	3.6	—	3.35	7.5
Scottish Met. Prop. Int.	1.5	—	1.36*	3.15*
Senior Eng.	0.75	June 1	0.75	1.5
George Willis	5.5	—	4	8

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. \*Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. \*On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. \*USM Stock. \*Final of 2p forecast.

to £24.1m. After tax of £258,000 (£122,000 credit) and minorities of £57,000 (£12,000), the attributable losses came to £5.13m (£6.8m profits).

Operating losses of £1.33m (£6.5m profits) were made up of: shipping losses £3.9m (£4.8m profit); insurance broking profit: £49,000 (£100,000); group finance profits £872,000 (£863,000); associate companies' off-shore services profits £1.55m (£1.17m); and ship broking profits £100,000 (£154,000).

comment

Lyle's slump from £5.8m profits to £4.7m loss on an HCA basis (no inflation-adjusted figures are provided) appears to be of dangerous proportions. The total assets of the company are valued at 15.6 per cent of net asset value, accepting that the 1981 revaluation of the company's 72 ships is a fair one today, as the management claims. But in fact the pre-tax loss is made up primarily of a £3.4m provision against future

losses, even though most of the losses are likely to come from ships chartered out at spot market rates rather than on long-term contracts. The finance director is not prepared to say how the provision will be written back over the next two to three years. No information has yet been disclosed on the state of the balance sheet except that borrowings increased substantially in the second half of 1982, with the mounting losses, payment for the delivery of a Brazilian ship (ordered in 1978) and progress payments on two other ships whose delivery has been delayed until 1984-85. Most of the debt however is in the form of bank term loans lasting for eight years and more.

After the share price yesterday fell 3p to 182p where the historic yield is 6 per cent. Assuming that there has been a 40 per cent rise in the value of its ships since December — the management's claim — net asset value is 381p per share.

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On a maintained dividend, the shares fell 8.5 per cent.

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Holdings of about 60 per cent of the ordinary shares also elected to receive a declaration of dividend in the form of loan stock in Habitat, which requires the issue and allotment of £1.5m nominal of convertible loan stock. That alternative is now closed.

## Senior Engineering 13% ahead at year end

DESPITE A downturn in second half pre-tax profits, from £2.64m to £1.78m, full year figures of engineering products concern Senior Engineering Group to December 31 last, finished ahead at £4.53m, compared with a previous £4.02m, a 13 per cent rise.

At the interim stage, with profits well up at £2.75m (£1.38m), the directors said that results showed a strong recovery but world recession was having a greater impact overseas and in recent months there had been a renewed downturn in demand. They added that deterioration was having an adverse effect on certain subsidiaries causing them to make further economies.

They now explain that the impact was particularly severe on the Phoenix Steel Tube Company, which incurred a substantial loss in the second half of the year.

Turnover for 1982 rose from £68.53m to £77.35m and, with a same-as-again final dividend, of 0.75p net per 10p share, the total is maintained at 1.5p. After tax of £2.08m (£1.51m) earnings per share are shown as 2.85p, against 3.15p.

Trading profits amounted to £5.05m (£4.67m) and the pre-tax figure was after exceptional charges—production rationalisation costs—of £196,000, compared with £266,000, and net interest of £358,000 (£268,000).

After the tax charge, and an extraordinary debit of £785,000 (factory closure costs—the available balance came through lower at £1.66m, against £2.51m).

comment

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The deal comes a year after Habitat bought Mothercare and forms part of chairman Sir Terence Conran's policy of establishing a stores group with appeal across a wide age range.

## Riley £6.6m offer for Leisure Inds.

BY DAVID DODWELL

Riley Leisure, the snooker table, snooker clubs and keep fit equipment group, yesterday revealed an agreed bid for Leisure Industries worth £6.6m.

On the basis of two Riley ordinary shares for each Leisure ordinary share, the bid valued Leisure shares at 330p. However, Hill Samuel has offered a cash alternative for up to 50 per cent of the shares taken up on the basis of 145p for each Riley share—valuing Leisure shares at 290p. Leisure shares closed yesterday up 10p at 300p, while Riley shares fell 3p to 162p.

The board of Leisure Industries, which makes small snooker tables, keep-fit equipment and wooden toys, is recommending that shareholders accept the offer. They with family trusts have undertaken to accept, and account for almost 52 per cent of Leisure's share capital.

Riley chairman Mr Alan Deal said yesterday that for an expansion minded company like his, the offer is a "very attractive proposition" and that the takeover would be a "very good thing for the company".

An acquisition at this stage, however, allowed both groups to benefit from strengths of the other, he said.

For Riley, which was beginning to expand into the manufacture of small snooker tables, it allows a more rational growth. Leisure has much stronger links with retail shops, and with mail order outlets. Riley expects to take advantage of this.

Leisure's cues, which carry the name of Steve Davis, and will soon also carry the name of a second snooker star, Tony Meo, also have a strong market which Riley can take advantage of.

Mr Deal insisted that rationalisation would not lead to job losses. Interest in snooker is booming, he said, and both Riley and Leisure were working at full capacity to meet demand.

Riley said that once the offer is unconditional, Mr Leppard, Holzer and Mr Aubrey, Leze, respectively chairman and deputy chairman of Leisure, will join the Riley board.

News of the bid coincided with profit figures from Riley, which reflected strong growth over the past year and a half.

Pre-tax profits for the 17 months to December 31 1982 were £1.4m, with a turnover of £15.1m. In the 12 months preceding that, profits of £723,000 had been generated on a turnover of £8m. A final dividend of 5p makes a total for the year of 5.6p.

Strongest growth came in snooker shares, which rose to £370,000 from £100,000 in the previous period, which is not easily comparable. Earnings from clubs also improved to £912,000 from £485,000.

Riley's difficulties remained in the area of furniture manufacture, where profits slipped from £101,000 to £26,000, and in games manufacture, which stagnated at £11,000. Riley's 50 per cent owned Canadian associate also faced difficulties, reporting a £35,000 loss.

Difficulty in comparing figures for the two periods was compounded because earnings from club activities were boosted during the final seven months of the last period after the purchase of the Lucania chain of snooker clubs based in London and the south-east.

Earnings from keep fit activities came in only the final two weeks of the period under review, but Mr Deal predicted this area would make a strong contribution to profits in the year ahead.



Mr Alan Deal, chairman of Riley Leisure, "an expansion minded company enjoying a boom in snooker interest"

It was estimated that the group profits of Leisure Industries were in the region of £685,000 for the year to March 31, 1983. On this basis, analysts were predicting yesterday a combined profit for the current year of between £2.4m and £2.7m.

comment

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The deal comes a year after Habitat bought Mothercare and forms part of chairman Sir Terence Conran's policy of establishing a stores group with appeal across a wide age range.

Investment in Hanson shares has appreciated in value by 430.8 per cent over the past five years compared with 100.7 per cent rise of the FT All Share Index and a 71.3 per cent increase in the retail price index, the company said.

UDS shareholders are offered five Hanson ordinary shares and 160p cash for every eight ordinary UDS stock units, equivalent to 136.25p per stock unit at Thursday's closing price for Hanson of 186p. There is also a cash alternative offer of 133.5p per stock unit. Closing date for the offer is April 22.

comment

## Hanson Trust sees over £75m

BY DAVID DODWELL

Hanson Trust, the industrial holding company, yesterday forecast a pre-tax profit of not less than £75m for the year ending September 30, an increase of 24.2 per cent on last year's record £60.4m.

This forecast, which was in line with City expectations, was included in the formal revised offer for the UDS retaining group which was posted yesterday.

Unaudited pre-tax profit for the first five months ended February 28 showed a £10m increase to £25m. This figure includes a full contribution from both British Ever Ready and United Gas Industries.

Sir James Hanson, Hanson Trust chairman, noted in his letter to shareholders that profits and earnings per share had increased over each of the past 19 years without a break.

"We do not believe this record has been surpassed by any other major listed UK company," he added.

Hanson said it had also increased its distribution to shareholders every year for 19 years with dividends growing on average by over 20 per cent a year in the past decade.

The company has already forecast that it intends to recommend dividends on the increased share capital for the 1982-83 year at a rate of at least 30 per cent higher than for the previous year.

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## Habitat has 89% of Heals

BY ROWENA WHELAN

Habitat Mothercare's offer for the quality furniture group Heals and Sons had been accepted by 89 per cent of the voting shareholders by yesterday's first closing date.

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## Clyde Petroleum £0.5m in red

PROFITS from operations at Clyde Petroleum were much higher at £2.03m, against £1.35m, but a jump in exceptional interest charges, from £174,000 to £2.54m, has left the group £311,000 in the red for 1982, compared with profits of £1.1m.

The increase in profits from operations arose from the first significant contribution from oil and gas operations in Ecuador and the U.S. The directors say that the first contribution from UK oil and gas production will follow payout of the 12.71 per cent net production interest in the North Sea Buchan Field, which is expected in the first quarter of 1983.

The exceptional interest charges for the 12 months relate to the borrowings of U.S.\$30m made in connection with the acquisition of the Buchan net production interest, which was not income-producing in 1982.

Turnover for the year rose from £24.1m to £21.35m and the dividend is stepped up from 0.55p to 0.80p net per 25p share. Loss per share is given as 1.4p, compared with earnings of 0.25p last time.

Tax charges amounted to £812,000, against £582,000, but there were unrealised exchange gains for the period of £1.73m (£1.52m). After minority interests, the company's net profit is £1.52m (£1.52m), and an extraordinary credit of £740,000 (£1.52m debit), there was an attributable profit of £1.45m, much higher than the previous year's £81,000.

Referring to the announcement yesterday by Saxon Oil of the company's decision to withdraw from the merger with Clyde, the directors of Clyde say they believe that its offer for Saxon is generous, which, when agreed with the Saxon board, specifically accounted for the possibility of a commercial oil discovery in Block 16/8b. No information on well 16/8b has

been made available to Clyde or other Saxon shareholders which could justify a change in terms previously agreed, they state.

The benefits of the merger, recognising the possibility of a commercial oil discovery, were fully explained by Saxon's chairman in his letter of recommendation, directors point out.

On the basis of Clyde's share price on April 7 the offer values each Saxon share at £21.5m. This compares with Saxon's share price of 60p on the day preceding that on which the merger was announced — March 8 — an increase of over 100 per cent.

Clyde believes that, in the absence of the offer the Saxon share price "would fall significantly below that level".

The Clyde board and its financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell and Co continue to believe that the offer "fully values Saxon and its prospects, and urge shareholders to accept the offer as soon as possible."

## Results due next week

Despite general depression in the engineering sector, Northern Engineering Industries should match its first-half profit improvement for the full year to December 31, according to stock market analysts. On this basis, forecasters are predicting pre-tax profits of around £30m for 1982 against £33m in the previous year. Following the increase in the interim payout to 1.5p (1.36p), a slight rise in the year's dividend to 4.5p (4.13p) is expected. The bulk of the expected profit improvement should come from the UK, with a first-time full year's contribution from Amalgamated Power Engineering counting for roughly half the advance. Elsewhere, the South African and Australian businesses are believed to have held up well. But the North American companies— which slipped in £8.8m in 1981—are likely to have a significantly lower contribution last year. Extel, a problem area in the first half, may well have increased its losses as the year wore on.

A widespread fear in the market that Rio Tinto-Zinc would announce a second-half profit decline in the 1982 results as released on Thursday, seems to have subsided. Profit forecasts remain generally gloomy, but analysts now believe that the previous year's 16p total payout will be repeated. Despite a second-half improvement in a number of RTZ's mining operations, the

market remains very cautious and year-end net profit forecasts range between £65m and £86m. Although mining interests have been generally depressed against a background of soft metals prices and weaker demand, the important Australian arm, CRA picked up significantly in the year's second half, swinging from a first-half loss of £29.2m to a net profit in the second half of £45.8m. That left a net loss for the year of £13.3m (1981 profit £33.1m). Palabora was strong, despite the low copper price, but depressed uranium prices and contract problems following political uncertainty in Namibia have continued at Rossing. Hamersley showed a second-half improvement as did Bougainville on the back of last year's gold price rise. Industrial interests, including Borax, have suffered from the recession, but currency movements have been generally favourable for RTZ. The interest factor is an important unknown variable.

Forecasts for Glaxo's interim results to December, which are due on Monday, have











## Companies and Markets

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## Pound steady

Sterling showed very little overall change in currency markets yesterday, in predominantly quiet trading. There was little incentive to take out fresh positions ahead of the weekend, while the acceptance of BNO's latest proposals on North Sea oil prices kept trading to a minimum. The pound's index was unchanged at the close at 80.8, compared with 80.7 at noon and 80.9 in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at \$1.5050 and traded in a narrow range of \$1.5010-\$1.5110 before finishing at \$1.5045-\$1.5055, a fall of just 20 points. The dollar was generally

## CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

## MONEY MARKETS

## Little change

UK clearing bank base lending rate 10 per cent (since March 15 and 16). Day to day credit was in short supply in the London money market yesterday. The Bank of England gave an early forecast of a shortage of around £500m although this was later revised to £200m. Factors affecting the market included bills maturing in official hands and a net take up of Treasury bills - £220m and a rise in the note circulation of £240m. On the other hand Exchequer transactions added £50m to the system. The Bank gave assistance in the morning of £145m comprising purchases of £25m of eligible bank bills in band 1 (up to 14 days) at 10 per cent and in band 2 (15-33 days) £5m of local authority and £50m of eligible bank bills at 10 per cent.

Assistance in the afternoon came to £350m, making a grand total of £495m. The afternoon help comprised purchases of £210m of eligible bank bills in band 1 at 10 per cent, £100m in band 2 at 10 per cent, £1m in band 3 (34-63 days) at 10 per cent and £1m in band 4 (64-84 days) at 10 per cent. Weekend money in the interbank market opened at 10-11 per cent and touched 12 per cent before finishing at 2 per cent. The bullish tone of the market was reflected in the latest Treasury bill tender where the average rate of discount fell to 0.514 per cent from 0.517 per cent.

## OTHER CURRENCIES

Argentina Peso, 104.03-104.28; Australia Dollar, 1.7565-1.7585; Brazil Cruzeiro, 637.04-639.04; Canada Dollar, 1.2345-1.2355; Denmark Kroner, 8.25-8.26; Hong Kong Dollar, 10.11-10.12; India Rupee, 166.5-166.6; Japan Yen, 160.0-160.1; Kuwait Dinar, 4.04-4.05; Luxembourg Franc, 2.47-2.48; New Zealand Dollar, 2.30-2.31; Saudi Riyal, 1.85-1.86; Singapore Dollar, 1.35-1.36; South African Rand, 1.50-1.51; Swiss Franc, 1.48-1.49; Taiwan Dollar, 2.48-2.49; Thailand Baht, 5.5-5.6; West German Mark, 1.75-1.76; Yugoslavia Dinar, 1.35-1.36.

## LONDON MONEY RATES

Apr. 8 1983	Sterling	Local Authority	Local Authority	Finance	Company	Discount	Market	Bank	Trade	Fin
	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits	Deposits
Overnight	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
2 days notice	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
7 days notice	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
14 days notice	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
1 month	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
3 months	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
6 months	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
9 months	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
12 months	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
One year	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Two years	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11

ECGD Rate Export Finance Scheme (IV Average Rate for interest period March 2 to April 5 1983 (inclusive)) 10.94 per cent. Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, other seven days fixed, Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 11 per cent; four years 11 per cent; five years 11 per cent; six years 11 per cent; seven years 11 per cent; eight years 11 per cent; nine years 11 per cent; ten years 11 per cent; eleven years 11 per cent; twelve years 11 per cent; thirteen years 11 per cent; fourteen years 11 per cent; fifteen years 11 per cent; sixteen years 11 per cent; seventeen years 11 per cent; eighteen years 11 per cent; nineteen years 11 per cent; twenty years 11 per cent.

Approximate selling rates for one month Treasury bills 10 per cent; two months 10 per cent; three months 10 per cent; four months 10 per cent; five months 10 per cent; six months 10 per cent; seven months 10 per cent; eight months 10 per cent; nine months 10 per cent; ten months 10 per cent; eleven months 10 per cent; twelve months 10 per cent; thirteen months 10 per cent; fourteen months 10 per cent; fifteen months 10 per cent; sixteen months 10 per cent; seventeen months 10 per cent; eighteen months 10 per cent; nineteen months 10 per cent; twenty months 10 per cent.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. APRIL 9)

3 month U.S. dollars	6 month U.S. dollars
bid 97 1/8	offer 97 1/8
offer 97 1/8	bid 97 1/8

The fixing rates are the arithmetic mean, rounded to the nearest one-eighth, of the bid and offered rates for \$100 quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Paribas, and Citibank.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing rates)

Apr. 8	Short term	7 days notice	Month	Three months	Six months	One year
Sterling	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
U.S. Dollar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Can. Dollar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Swiss Franc	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Japanese Yen	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Deutsche Mark	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
French Franc	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Italian Lira	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Spanish Peseta	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Portuguese Escudo	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Belgian Franc	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Dutch Guilder	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Austrian Schilling	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Swedish Krona	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Norwegian Krone	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Denmark Kroner	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Finland Markka	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Yugoslavia Dinar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Czechoslovak Koruna	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Hungarian Forint	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Polish Zloty	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Romanian Leu	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Soviet Ruble	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Czech Republic Koruna	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Slovak Republic Koruna	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Slovenian Tolar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Croatian Kuna	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Bosnian Dinar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Serbian Dinar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Montenegrin Dinar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Macedonian Denar	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Bulgarian Lev	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Russian Ruble	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Ukrainian Hryvnia	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Belarusian Ruble	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Lithuanian Litas	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Latvian Lats	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Estonian Kroon	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Lettonian Lats	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Lithuanian Litas	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Latvian Lats	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Estonian Kroon	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11
Lettonian Lats	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11	10-11

## THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Apr. 8	Day's spread	Close	One month	Three months	6 months	12 months
U.S.	1.5010-1.5110	1.5045	1.5045	1.5045	1.5045	1.5045
Canada	1.2345-1.2355	1.2350	1.2350	1.2350	1.2350	1.2350
Denmark	8.25-8.26	8.255	8.255	8.255	8.255	8.255
France	6.55-6.56	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555
Germany	1.75-1.76	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755
Italy	1.35-1.36	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355
Japan	160.0-160.1	160.05	160.05	160.05	160.05	160.05
Netherlands	2.30-2.31	2.305	2.305	2.305	2.305	2.305
Spain	166.5-166.6	166.55	166.55	166.55	166.55	166.55
Sweden	4.60-4.61	4.605	4.605	4.605	4.605	4.605
Switzerland	1.48-1.49	1.485	1.485	1.485	1.485	1.485
Taiwan	2.48-2.49	2.485	2.485	2.485	2.485	2.485
Thailand	5.5-5.6	5.55	5.55	5.55	5.55	5.55
West Germany	1.75-1.76	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755
Yugoslavia	1.35-1.36	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355
Zimbabwe	1.50-1.51	1.505	1.505	1.505	1.505	1.505

## THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Apr. 8	Day's spread	Close	One month	Three months	6 months	12 months
U.S.	1.5010-1.5110	1.5045	1.5045	1.5045	1.5045	1.5045
Canada	1.2345-1.2355	1.2350	1.2350	1.2350	1.2350	1.2350
Denmark	8.25-8.26	8.255	8.255	8.255	8.255	8.255
France	6.55-6.56	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555	6.555
Germany	1.75-1.76	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755
Italy	1.35-1.36	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355
Japan	160.0-160.1	160.05	160.05	160.05	160.05	160.05
Netherlands	2.30-2.31	2.305	2.305	2.305	2.305	2.305
Spain	166.5-166.6	166.55	166.55	166.55	166.55	166.55
Sweden	4.60-4.61	4.605	4.605	4.605	4.605	4.605
Switzerland	1.48-1.49	1.485	1.485	1.485	1.485	1.485
Taiwan	2.48-2.49	2.485	2.485	2.485	2.485	2.485
Thailand	5.5-5.6	5.55	5.55	5.55	5.55	5.55
West Germany	1.75-1.76	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755	1.755
Yugoslavia	1.35-1.36	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355	1.355
Zimbabwe	1.50-1.51	1.505	1.505	1.505	1.505	1.505

## EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Apr. 8	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.0000	1.5045	2.485	160.05	6.555	1.755	2.305	1.355	1.2350	6.555
U.S. Dollar	0.664	1.0000	0.693	106.36	0.153	0.075	0.048	0.024	0.792	0.153
Deutsche Mark	0.402	0.412	1.0000	163.89	1.667	0.575	0.336	0.166	0.655	1.667
Japanese Yen	0.0061	0.0060	0.0061	1.0000	0.015	0.007	0.004	0.002	0.025	0.015
French Franc	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	1.0000	0.145	0.083	0.041	0.136	0.145
Swiss Franc	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1.0000	0.540	0.236	0.476	0.075
Dutch Guilder	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1.0000	0.360	0.720	0.048
Italian Lira	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1.0000	2.000	0.024
Canada Dollar	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.792	1.0000	0.792
Belgian Franc	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	1.0000

## COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

## WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest prices per tonne unless stated	Change on week	Year ago
<b>METALS</b>			
Aluminum	2880		2530 1/2
Free Markets c.i.f.	\$178/1400		\$1000/100
Free Market 99.95	\$178/2000	+97.5	\$1325/240
Copper-Cash High Grade	21076.75	-37	20800
Cash c.i.f. De	21105.75	-37	20800
Cash Cathodes	21059.5	-28	20835
3 months Do.	21086.5	-27.5	20700
5 months Do.	21117.5	-27	20700
Cash	21037.5		20600
3 months	21074.5	-3.5	20445 1/2
5 months	21094.5	-10	20425 1/2
Free Markets c.i.f. De	21024.5	-10	20425 1/2
Palladium per oz.	\$115.00	+13.5	\$102.50
Platinum per oz.	\$367.50	+2.5	\$365.00
Nickel-silver (75/15)	\$200.25		\$175/65
Silver per oz.	753.00	+25.00	481.75
3 months per oz.	750.50	+25.50	475.00
Cash	749.5	+25.5	475.00
3 months.	749.5	+25.5	475.00
Unspun tin	\$2981	+0.5	\$17,375
Unspun tin (15.04 lbs)	\$2981	+0.5	\$17,375
Cine cash	\$2465.5	-112.25	\$2480.00
3 months.	\$2465.5	-112.25	\$2480.00
Producers	\$750		\$680.00
<b>GRAINS</b>			
Barley Futures	\$111.05 1/2	-0.25	\$105.45
Maize French	\$146.00		\$115.50
<b>WHEAT Futures</b>			
Hard Winter Wheat	\$137.75 1/2	-1.75	\$120.50
Grounded			75
Groves	26,900		25,680
Pepper, white	\$1,775 1/2		\$1,775 1/2
Black	\$1,775 1/2		\$1,775 1/2
<b>OILS</b>			
Coconut (Philippines)	\$577.5 1/2		\$560
Groundnut			\$560
Linsaid, Crude			\$560
Palm Malaya	\$412	-10	\$401.5
2428			\$340
Cope (Philippines)	\$355.5	-4.5	\$370.00
Soybeans (U.S.)			
Cocoa Shipments 1/2	\$1,254	-57.5	\$298
Cocoa Futures July	\$1,225.5	-57.5	\$297.5
Cash Futures July	\$1,264.5	-57.5	\$297.5
Cotton Indian	80.10c	+0.4	71.25
Dates, Coconut	2580	+10	2580
Java Oil May	\$48.9		\$38.75
Rubber Java BSWC grade	75.5p	-1.5	\$299
Rubber Kilo	237.0p		\$21.5
Sago Peril	\$245		\$245
Sisal No. 51	\$245		\$245
Sugar (Raw)	\$250 1/2		\$250 1/2
Spice No. 1	\$250 1/2		\$250 1/2
Tea (quality) kilo			119p
Cow milk, kilo			119p
Wooltop 54s Warb	400p Kilo	-9	\$242 1/2







## Companies and Markets

## INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

## Thyssen warns on payout after first half sales fall

BY JAMES BOCHAN IN BONN

THYSSEN, the diversified industrial group that is West Germany's largest steelmaker, warned yesterday that it faced difficulty maintaining its dividend for the current year, even at the 1981-82 reduced level of 2 per cent.

Dr Dieter Spethmann, chief executive of the group, told shareholders yesterday that sales had fallen in all four divisions in the first six months of the year, and that the group was down 9 per cent on the same period of 1981-82. However, losses already made on steel and special steels are so large that the question of a dividend for 1982-83 must remain open for the moment, he said.

If there is no payout, this would be the first time in recent history for the group, which has reported losses of over DM 60m (\$25m) in each of the past two years and has not yet been able to carry through a planned rights issue.

Dr Spethmann also confirmed what had been known in the Ruhr for some time: that the planned merger of Thyssen's steel division and Krupp Stahl, the steelmaking subsidiary of the Fried Krupp group, faced a number of financial hurdles.

The chief problem, according to Dr Spethmann, was the liabilities Krupp Stahl would bring to the new concern, although this could be solved with government aid. Bonn has already expressed itself ready to put up money for the merger.

Dr Spethmann added, however, that the two parent groups had agreed to meet the new concern's expected losses for a "certain time period."

As part of the merger, Thyssen plans to cut its crude steel capacity by some 30 per cent. Last year, Europe's largest private steelmaker produced 10.2m tonnes, a wholly unsatisfactory level compared with 16m tonnes in 1974, but production had fallen another 27 per cent in the first half of the current year.

Mr Sullivan told a Press conference that he believed non-performing assets could increase somewhat more in the coming months, but added that they might be down by the end of the year.

The bank's net interest income in the first quarter amounted to \$192.9m, compared with \$151.8m in 1982. Non-interest income rose from \$67.4m to \$82.2m.

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## Sharp rise in earnings at First Chicago

By Richard Lambert in New York

FIRST CHICAGO Corporation, parent of the 11th largest bank in the U.S. has opened 1983 with a 31 per cent rise in earnings in the first quarter. Net income in the period rose from \$33.2m to \$43.5m or from 83 cents to 96 cents.

Mr Barry Sullivan, First Chicago's chairman, attributed the increase to higher net interest income and non-interest income, offset by increases in non-interest expense and an increased provision for credit losses.

The provision for credit losses in the latest period was \$35m, up from \$12.5m a year earlier but unchanged from the final quarter of 1982. Non-performing assets amounted to \$576m at the end of March, a rise of \$29m on the end-December level.

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## Steel operations continue to depress BHP returns

BY LACHLAN DRUMMOND IN SYDNEY

THE MILLSTONE of its steel operations held Broken Hill Proprietary to net earnings of A\$29.2m (US\$25.4m) in its third quarter to the end of February. After its own form of inflation accounting the company is reporting a loss of A\$31.1m.

BHP is issuing quarterly reports for the first time this financial year and therefore no comparisons are available. However, after nine months, net earnings totalled A\$164.7m, only A\$5m ahead of the depressed final six months total for 1981-82.

Using the company's fixed asset valuation adjustment the nine-month result was also an overall net loss of A\$24.7m, with the additional depreciation charged on revalued assets totalling A\$189.4m. Before tax, interest and the fixed asset utilisation charge (BHP's form of depreciation), quarterly profits were A\$168.2m and for the nine months A\$614.8m. For fiscal 1981-82 the total was A\$995.6m.

The latest quarterly net profit is entirely attributable to the oil and gas division, with a A\$77.1m contribution, and the minerals division, with A\$7.6m. Steel division losses totalled A\$53.1m after taking in A\$33m of abnormal costs from restructuring and retrenching in the period. Other areas also had modest losses.

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## Bridgestone Tire income drops 18%

By Our Financial Staff

BRIDGESTONE TIRE, Japan's largest tyre manufacturer, reports an 18 per cent fall in group net profits to Y13bn (\$54.7m) for 1982. Sales were marginally lower at Y712bn from Y734bn previously but earnings per share were cut sharply from Y33.34 to Y24.18.

The fall in group profits is the latest in a succession of setbacks that has taken Bridgestone from its peak net figure of more than Y55bn in 1979 down to last year's Y13bn. The fall has come in spite of a considerable growth in sales from Y526bn to Y712bn over the same period.

For 1982, operating profit was also down at Y47bn from Y54bn along with pre-tax profit down almost 24 per cent at Y35.3bn. There was better news for the company, however, from Iran, its largest export market after the U.S. The Iranian share run Plastic Materials Procurement and Distribution Centre announced yesterday plans to purchase \$200m worth of tyres from five Japanese manufacturers, with between \$80m and \$70m going to Bridgestone.

The other four companies involved are Sumitomo Rubber, Yokohama Rubber, Toyo Rubber and Otsu Tire and Rubber. Bridgestone has been involved deeply in Iran since it established a subsidiary there in 1973. In July of last year it received the first Y4.3bn instalment of its compensation from the Japanese government over the investment insurance scheme for the nationalisation of its Iranian holding.

For 1983 the company is forecasting a return to growth with net profits expected to rise to Y16bn. Trading volume of Japanese public bonds in the Tokyo over the counter market rose to Y33.589 bn in the year to March 31 from Y297,500bn in fiscal 1981, according to the securities dealers' association.

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## Netherlands bio-chemicals group ahead

By Walter Ellis in Amsterdam

GIST-BROCADES, the Dutch bio-chemicals and pharmaceuticals group, raised earnings by 30 per cent last year and is proposing an increased dividend of 12 per cent, or A\$1.20, to shareholders, a 10 per cent increase on the previous year.

Net profit went up from the 1981 total of \$128.7m to \$137.3m (\$13.7m). The dividend in 1981 was \$12.50 a share cash or one share for every 40 already held.

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## Dome Petroleum may sell its interest in gold mining

BY ROBERT GIBBENS IN MONTREAL

DOM PETROLEUM has again raised the possibility of selling its long-standing 40 per cent interest in Dome Mines, Canada's largest gold-mining group, which at present has a market value of around C\$700m.

Dome, whose stock is listed in New York, said in a regular 10K filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that further asset sales are likely because its cash flows are still insufficient to carry a debt load totalling C\$6.5bn at the end of 1982.

Dome has already sold some foreign assets to UK interests, but has been caught by adverse oil-market developments. The decline in oil prices has reduced the value of its U.S. properties which have been held for sale for more than a year.

Earlier this year, Dome sold half its interest in TransCanada Pipelines. These assets sales raised more than C\$500m. A C\$3bn debt repayment to its Canadian banks which was due on March 31 has been extended until May 2.

Dome says continuing talks with Canadian and foreign lenders will require several more months to complete. Its total rescue package is now unlikely to be placed before shareholders until the autumn.

However, Dome adds that operating and capital needs plus interest and Preferred share dividends for 1983 can be met without additional funds, provided that the banks "continue to defer certain debt repayments."

Meanwhile, retiring Dome chairman, Mr Jack Gallagher, will continue as a consultant for the company and will receive C\$27,500 a month for eight years, or a total of C\$22.6m. If his employment is terminated before the eight years are up, he still gets the full C\$22.6m.

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## FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

## AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS



## LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

## MARKET REPORT

Late burst of strength lifts equities to record highs  
Gilts basically firm despite £1bn. Government funding

## Account Dealing Dates

Options  
First Declaration Last Account  
Dealings Dealings Day  
Mar 21 Apr 7 Apr 8 Apr 18  
Apr 11 Apr 21 Apr 22 May 3  
Apr 25 May 3 May 6 May 16  
\*New-time 3 day time  
place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

A typical last session of a long trading Account yesterday saw London equities poised for most of the time to break existing records. And, after the official, 3.30 pm. close, demand for the trading Account beginning on Monday left the FT Industrial Ordinary Share Index 2.8 up at a best-ever 675.0. FT-Actuaries Indices also achieved records with the 750 All-Share Index gaining 0.3 per cent to 423.01. Neither the authorities' continued reluctance to give in to pressures for lower interest rates nor equity market end-Account influences failed to shake underlying confidence about an early fall in clearing bank base rates. For the second successive day the Bank of England dashed hopes of a cut in money market intervention levels, but short-term rates stayed soft and market faith was later justified by the sharply reduced rate on this week's offer of Treasury Bills.

The pattern of equity trade yesterday was broadly similar to that experienced earlier in the week. Investors remained selective in their demands, but recently purchased shares were later sold. Buildings and other consumer-oriented issues yesterday encountered some profit-taking. In contrast, certain electricals returned to favour, including GEC, Plessey and Racal Electronics. Beecham advanced and featured the 30-Share constituents, about one-third of which ended the session a shade easier.

Sterling continued to dominate sentiment in British funds. Renewed investment demand carried all securities higher initially, but the shares were later pared. The 3.30 pm announcement of new Government funding via the issue of £1bn Treasury 10 1/2 per cent 1983, payable 25 at tender next Wednesday, halted dealings for the customary forty-five minutes. When business resumed, longer-dated Gilts moved up 1/2 and medium-term more, but medium-life stocks eased that much. The shorts held steady. Over the shortened week, the FT Government Securities Index rose 1.03 to 81.90, on Wednesday, this measure touched its highest level since last November.

## Eagle Star good late

A mediocre day in Insurance was enlivened by a late spurt in Eagle Star, which closed 23 higher at a 1982-83 peak of 408p on institutional buying in a market short of stock; the annual

## report is published today.

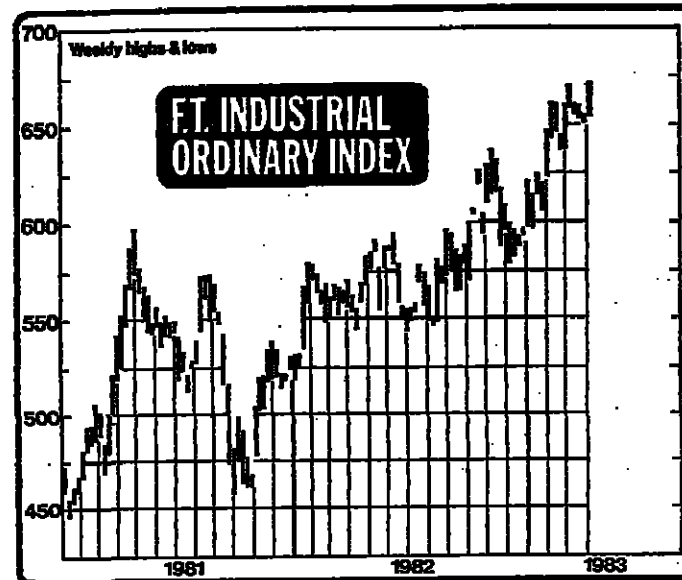
A dull market of late on the proposed £101m rights issue, Standard Chartered rallied 10 to 473p. Elsewhere in a quiet banking sector, English Association found support and put on 15 to 209p. First National Finance Corporation edged forward a penny to 483p following speculative support.

After Thursday's useful gains on cheaper money hopes, leading Buildings encountered a certain amount of profit-taking. However, quotations trended firmer again in the late dealings and closing falls were generally small.

Takeover developments, both actual and rumoured, dominated proceedings elsewhere in the sector. Istock Johnsons dropped to 114p before settling a net 3 down at 125p on Redland's decision not to proceed with its proposed acquisition of the company. On the other hand, Steeley, in receipt of an offer from Hepworth Ceramic, jumped to 232p on speculation that Redland may launch a counter, but the Redland financial director's denial of bid intentions regarding the company left the close just 5 up on balance at 221p. Redland ended 5 off at 250p, after 247p, while London Brick, whose bid for Istock Johnsons is awaiting the outcome of a Monopolies Commission investigation, softened a penny to 152p.

ICI fluctuated narrowly before settling 2 cheaper on balance at 390p. Cautious comment on the annual results unsettled Croda International, which reacted 5 to 11p, but buying in the afternoon half-timer lifted James Halstead that amount to 93p. Amersham International firmed 7 to 255p, while Laporte, 277p, and Wolstenholme Rink, 275p, gained 4 apiece.

The subject of substantial institutional interest earlier in the week, leading Stores paused for breath, and after a subdued trade, finished a shade easier for choice. Burton gave up a few pence to 342p, but Marks and Spencer held at 214p — a gain on the week of 22p. W. H. Smith 'A' continued to attract support in front of the annual results, scheduled for April 20, and firmed 4 to record a two-day gain of 24 to 258p. Consumer spending hopes against buoyant Comet, 7 up at 255p, but recently firm Currys eased a couple of pence to 300p. Mollins were briefly traded and dipped to 145p before rallying to finish a net 6 to the good at 158p. Owen Owen, on the other hand, encountered late profit-taking and shed 6 to 165p, while Sumrie, a rising market of late on the announcement that the Tiltman Group had gained control, eased 5 to 85p and retaining a gain on the week of 17p. Rowland Gaunt fell 10 to 72p in a narrow market following the reduced first-half deficit. Mail-orders were again over-



shadowed by the poor annual results from Grattan, which dipped to a new 1982-83 low of 56p before reverting to unchanged at 58p. Empire, 62p, and Freemans, 66p, gave up 2 apiece.

## Electro-Protective up

Late demand helped the Electrical majors to close at, or near, the day's best levels. Racal continued the recent recovery with a rise of 14 to 466p, while GEC firmed 6 to 212p. News of a 510m British Telecom contract helped to push Plessey up 10 more to 568p and Thorne EMI added 8, making a gain of 27 on the week, at 510p. Elsewhere, Electro-Protective stood out with a rise of 19 to 210p, while Hawley put on 7 to 175p in sympathy. Still reflecting speculation concerning Tysco Laboratories' 29 per cent stake, Mairhead appreciated 12 for a two-day jump of 24 at 185p, after 160p. Memec put on 15 to 375p, Fidelity Radio 14 to 177p and Eurotherm 10 to 325p. Newman Industries harvested a couple of pence to 17p and Highland advanced 5 to 51p.

Leading Engineers closed a few pence easier after another unimpressive trading session. Elsewhere in the sector, Simon Engineering responded to a report that the company is expected to win a £400m contract for a chemical complex in northern Sumatra. Acquisition news left Halcrow Precinct 2 dearer at 85p, while Biral Qualcast, 15 better at 35p, reflected Press mention. Continued talk of a possible injection of assets left W. E. Norton 2 firmer at 20p, while Wellman gained 3 further to 27p on vague rumours of a U.S. bid. Fresh support lifted G. W. Sparrow 10 to 264p, while Sealar Engineering gave up 2 to 261p following disappointing preliminary figures. Weir Group encountered occasional selling and

## Turner &amp; Newall firm

Turner and Newall closed 5 better and 9 up on the week at 45p, after 46p, following buying on recovery hopes and a broker's circular. Elsewhere in miscellaneous Industrials, Beecham stood out among the firm leaders with a gain of 13 to 398p. Bewater, reflecting revised take-over hopes, rallied 7 to 175p. Glaxo picked up from 860p to finish unaltered, but still 50 dearer on the week at 870p, after Monday's interim figures. BTR also rallied late to close a couple of pence harder at 430p, after 425p, following news that the group had acquired 19.55m shares in Thomas Tilling, well short of the 45.55m target required to push the company to 215p while improvements of 10 were seen in Beatson Clark, 208p, Carlin Industries, 130p, and Centraway, 230p. Still reflecting favourable results, G. W. Sparrow rose 6 to 74p and

United Parcells gained 7 more to 135p. Elswick Hopper hardened 1 1/2 to 9p on recovery hopes. Awaiting the outcome of the talks between the television companies and the Football League regarding the Telefeetor deal, London and Liverpool Trust dropped to 400p before rallying to close a net 2 dearer at 415p. James Wilkes rose 15 to 220p on profit-taking.

Leisure Industries rose 10 to 300p following Riley Leisure's agreed share-exchange offer for the company, currently worth 324p per share. Trident TV A, dull earlier in the session on worries that Pleasurama's bid for the company may attract a Monopolies Commission reference, picked up in late dealings to close 2 dearer on balance at 97p. Barr and Wallace Arnold Trust A attracted revised speculative buying and put on 15 to 100p. Norton and Wright firmed 5 for a gain on the week of 40 to 125p on the board's indicated profits and dividend and the proposed scrip issue.

Generally firmer conditions prevailed among Motor and Aircraft Component manufacturers. Flight Refuelling stood out with an advance of 13 to a 1982-83 peak of 500p, while Solex, preliminary results due next Tuesday, rose 3 to 31p.

Properties, largely neglected in the general advance from Thursday, took heart from the City Corporation's prediction of a rent explosion in the City of London. Land Securities and MEPC both improved 3, to 316p and 217p respectively. Elsewhere, a speculative flurry lifted Marler Estates 10 to 79p. Scottish Metropolitan gained 5p to 125p, following the interim results and anticipated final dividend. Sheraton Securities hardened 1 to 14p; Mr. Clarke, a director of the company, and associates, have increased their stake in the company to 15.43 per cent.

Shipments made a mixed showing. Lyle fell to 175p following the preliminary results, but rallied to finish only 3 cheaper on balance at 182p. British and Commonwealth reacted 20 to 820p, but Walter Runciman continued to make progress with a rise of 5 to 77p and Common British closed 2 dearer at 107p. The proposed rights at 10p per share issue to relieve the company's pressing liquidity situation caused a late reaction of 15 to 80p in Millard Docks.

Up 65 on Thursday following the excellent results and proposed scrip issue, Bates reacted to scattered profit-taking and eased 25 to 690p, still retaining a gain on the week of 35p. Trusts took on an irregular appearance. Capital shares to make fresh headway included Aveling & Porter, 276p, and Balfour Beatty, 276p. Business was well distributed among those stocks in issue with Oils again to the fore. Shell Transport recorded 371 calls, while British Petroleum and Isamo attracted 187 and 186 calls respectively. Firm Electricals were mirrored by Royal which recorded 312 calls, 217 of which were done in the August 500s. GEC also attracted new demand with 282 calls transacted.

Traded Options ended the short week on an encouraging note with 2,531 contracts struck, bringing the week's daily average to 2,548, the highest for several weeks. Business was well distributed among those stocks in issue with Oils again to the fore. Shell Transport recorded 371 calls, while British Petroleum and Isamo attracted 187 and 186 calls respectively. Firm Electricals were mirrored by Royal which recorded 312 calls, 217 of which were done in the August 500s. GEC also attracted new demand with 282 calls transacted.

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RECENT ISSUES  
EQUITIES

Issue price	Amount paid	Latest Return	1982/83	Stock	Change	Div.	Yield	Ratio
£	p	%	High	Low				
140	F.P. 194	145	122	122	Alairship Ind.	122	1.5	6.3/15.0
112	F.P. 168	164	129	129	Assoc. British Ports	129	1.5	6.3/15.0
112	F.P. 168	164	129	129	Assoc. British Ports	129	1.5	6.3/15.0
112	F.P. 168	164	129	129	Assoc. British Ports	129	1.5	6.3/15.0
112	F.P. 168	164	129	129	Assoc. British Ports	129	1.5	6.3/15.0

## FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue price	Amount paid	Latest Return	1982/83	Stock	Change	Div.	Yield	Ratio
£	p	%	High	Low				
99.431	880	104	81 1/2	12	Birmingham 11 1/2% Red. 2019	12	1.5	1.9/1.9
110	F.P. 110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
110	F.P. 110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
110	F.P. 110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110

## "RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue price	Amount paid	Latest Return	1982/83	Stock	Change	Div.	Yield	Ratio
£	p	%	High	Low				
850	F.P. 265	264	242	272	AGB Research 10p	210	1.5	1.9/1.9
75	F.P. 124	124	94	87	Alldon Int. 10p	87	1.5	1.9/1.9
11140	F.P. 255	164	124	72	Alairship Ind.	123	1.5	1.9/1.9
25	F.P. 25	25	41	32	Applied Computer	40p	1.5	1.9/1.9

decision to withdraw from the planned merger with Clyde Petroleum due to the former's possible participation in a commercial oil discovery, the rise was also prompted by talk of the possibility of another bid for the company. The bid was closed at 90p, after 83p, following the annual results. The proposed petrol price increases by BP and Shell had little impact, although the latter traded firmly in the late dealings at 486p, up 6.

Overseas Traders featured Steel Brothers which, in a thin market improved 20 to 360p; the preliminary figures are expected in the next Account.

Golds easier  
An easing of the recent bear squeeze and a further decline in the bullion market left South African Golds showing wide spread losses for the first time in six trading days.

Activity in the share market contracted to minimal levels although one or two issues reflected continuing stock shortages and a renewed prospect.

The overall picture in the market was one of frequent small losses with recent favourite President Stern notably weak and finally 5 1/2 cheaper at 250p. President Stern dipped another point to 250 1/2 while falls of around 1 were common to Harbort, 248p, Southval, 239p, and St. Helena, 238p.

Highlights among the cheaper priced issues included South African Land, which jumped 20 to 685p, after ERGO, 14 to the good at 575p.

The Gold Mines index fell 3.9 to 598.7 but remained 39 points stronger over the short-term week. Bullion gave up 94 at 924 1/2 ounces.

The March quarter results from the gold mines begin next week with quarterly profits from those in the Gold Fields group expected on Tuesday.

Financials showed marginal changes either way in subdued and generally routine trading. London issues were steady to a shade easier on balance, after initial weakness, owing to new-time buying.

Australians performed similarly with end-account selling being replaced by buying for the new account. The speculative trades were highlighted by Balmoral Resources, which rose 2 1/2 to 171p, while Black Hill Minerals put on 2 to 47p. Leading issues were featured by Western Mining, which moved up 4 to 257p, while BAA added 3 to 257p, following the proposed capital re-contraction.

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## FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	Mar. 31	Mar. 20	Year ago
Government Secs.	81.90	81.61	82.03	80.97	80.88	80.80	80.75
Fixed Interest	82.47	82.47	82.47	82.47	82.47	82.47	82.47
Industrial Ord.	678.0	678.2	685.9	684.0	685.1	681.0	680.5
Gold Mines	598.7	608.8	590.5	582.5	582.5	582.5	582.5
Ord. Div. Yield	4.78	4.76	4.81	4.88	4.88	4.88	4.88
Earnings, Yld. % (Full)	9.48	9.51	9.38	10.13	10.13	10.13	10.13
PIE Ratio (net)	12.84	12.80	12.13	11.92	11.92	11.92	11.92
Total bargains	27,745	27,836	27,808	26,808	26,808	26,808	26,808
Equity turnover £m.	587.0	584.37	587.98	584.37	584.37	584.37	584.37
Equity bargains	25,885	24,086	27,098	24,086	24,086	24,086	24,086
Shares traded (m)	288.9	174.6	181.7	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.4

10 am 670.4, 11 am 672.3, Noon 671.7, 1 pm 671.8, 2 pm 671.4, 3 pm 671.4.  
Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 100 Industrial 100 Gold Mines 12/10/82.  
Gold Mines 12/10/82. SE Activity 1974.  
NI=11.57.  
Latest Index 01-248 8028.

## HIGHS AND LOWS

	1982/83	Since Completion	April 7	April 8
	High	Low	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	82.47	81.90	82.47	81.90
Fixed Int.	82.47	82.47	82.47	82.47
Ind. Ord.	678.0	678.2	678.0	678.2
Gold Mines	598.7	608.8	598.7	608.8

## LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

Percentage changes since December 31, 1982 based on Thursday, April 7, 1983.

	Office Equipment	Insurance	Metals and Metal Forming	Motor Vehicle	Other Consumer	Overseas Traders	Public Utilities	Real Estate	Retail	Transport	Wholesale
Office Equipment	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Insurance	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Metals and Metal Forming	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Motor Vehicle	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Other Consumer	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Overseas Traders	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Public Utilities	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Real Estate	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Retail	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Transport	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83
Wholesale	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83	+27.83

## RISES AND FALLS

	First	Last	Last	For	vision, Balfour, Eves, Sound
	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal
First	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal
Last	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal
Last	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal
For	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal	Deal

## NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1983

	NEW HIGHS (64)	NEW LOWS (3)
NEW HIGHS (64)	NEW LOWS (3)	
NEW HIGHS (64)	NEW LOWS (3)	
NEW HIGHS (64)	NEW LOWS (3)	
NEW HIGHS (64)	NEW LOWS (3)	

## ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stock	Change	Day's change	Day's change
Stock	Change	Day's change	Day's change	
Change	Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	
Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	

## THURSDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stock	Change	Day's change	Day's change
Stock	Change	Day's change	Day's change	
Change	Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	
Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	

## 4-DAY ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stock	Change	Day's change	Day's change
Stock	Change	Day's change	Day's change	
Change	Day's change	Day's change	Day's change	







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## BRITISH FUNDS

Shorts (Lives up to Five Years)	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Five to Fifteen Years	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Over Fifteen Years	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Index-Linked & Variable Rate	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

CORPORATION LOANS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

LOANS Public Board and Ind.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

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## LOANS—Continued

Financial	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Building Societies	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

AMERICANS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Canadians	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

BANKS, H.P. & LEASING	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

LOANS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Public Board and Ind.	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Canadians	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

BANKS, H.P. & LEASING	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

## BANKS—Continued

Financial	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Building Societies	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

AMERICANS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

Canadians	High	Low	Stock	Price	Yield	Div.
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00
1000000	100.00	99.00	1000000	100.00	9.00	10.00

150	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
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## MAN IN THE NEWS

High flier  
at BAT  
Industries

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

SOME MEN join the Navy to see the world. Patrick Sheehy decided instead at the tender age of 20, after school in Australia and National Service with the Irish Guards, that a giant tobacco multinational was probably a better—and more lucrative—way. "I picked up the travel bug from my father who was in the Indian Civil Service," he says. "But my ambition was really to live and work in Latin America."

Sheehy duly joined a tobacco company, but he never did get that posting to Latin America. Instead, some 32 years later, he became chairman of the world's largest tobacco multinational, BAT Industries, and this week stunned the City with his first set of preliminary figures which showed pre-tax profits up by a quarter to £56m. Not surprisingly, the share price jumped by more than 10 per cent on the news.

BAT has always been a somewhat secretive type of organisation at main board level, preferring to let its subsidiaries speak for themselves. Unfortunately, over the past decade the BAT board was responsible for a pretty mixed bag of diversifications in the UK and U.S.



Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT Industries

—into retailing, cosmetics, paper and packaging—while at the same time coming under increasing pressure from the anti-smoking lobby which put it, not surprisingly, on the defensive.

Sheehy himself was responsible for much of the U.S. retail diversifications in the 70s—acquiring the Saks and Gimbel retail groups—and makes no apology for it having taken some years for the time it is taking them to come good. "It takes time to learn about the key elements in different businesses, especially the particular type of managerial skills needed," he believes.

But Sheehy's involvement with non-tobacco interests was one of the key reasons why he was chosen as chairman, he suspects. "It was my broad range of experience that I feel helped my case."

That experience started when he was posted to Africa (instead of Latin America which he wanted) as a tobacco sales manager, subsequently transferring to Jamaica and then to the "lively life" of Barbados. However, he was soon recalled to the UK to join a team of potential high-fliers being groomed for top jobs in the company's scattered overseas operations. He was eventually put in charge of the Holland subsidiary, before returning to the UK in 1970 to begin his surge towards the top.

Those City analysts who have penetrated the BAT inner sanctums and met Sheehy see him as an aggressive operator who has forced his way to the top job. Sheehy however disputes this in the conventional manner of top British executives who feel somewhat embarrassed at admitting to the burning ambition for the top job.

But he believes that future diversifications should stay within the areas the company knows best—fast-moving consumer goods and retailing—rather than moving into high technology or heavy industry.

Sheehy also admits to wondering whether BAT might now be too large for one man to handle. "I spend on average about two days a week visiting our operations," he says while ruefully wishing he could spend more time. He believes that BAT's size forces him to concentrate on the essentials "and to place a high premium on good relationships with managers of the operating divisions."

The pressures of the new job, however, have not so far forced an increase in his smoking habits. "I smoke five or six cigarettes a day, purely for pleasure," he admits.

## BSC hopeful of steel peace

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

BRITISH STEEL was hopeful last night that the five-day strike by 3,000 workers in South Yorkshire would shortly be settled as delegates from the biggest union involved prepared for a "make-or-break" meeting in Rotherham this morning.

Mr Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, will address the meeting. Some delegates will argue for the official strike to be stepped up by calling out other steelworkers, while others want it called off.

The strike is the first major revolt against BSC's six-year redundancy programme, and has halted all steelmaking at the seven engineering steel plants in Sheffield and Rotherham, and in stainless steel and

railway and ring roll works. BSC was more optimistic after a meeting yesterday of strikers from Aldwarke and Templeborough works in Rotherham where the strike began.

A call for a vote on a return to work, was rejected as unconstitutional, because of the official strike was in the hands of the ISTC executive, which meets on Tuesday.

BSC's observers claimed the mood was for an end to the strike, and it hoped there would be a drift back to work from Monday.

Seventy-nine of the 86 workers whose redundancy sparked off the dispute collected their severance cheques yesterday.

The above interpretation was challenged by Mr Ted Thorne, chairman of the union action committee. So far as he was concerned only an end to redundancies should stop the strike, though he conceded that the general mood might not be so strong, and that a return to negotiations might persuade Mr Sims to call it off.

Much depends on the outcome of the national pay dispute, following a deal between BSC and the Steel Industry Management Association.

This gives 8,000 managers a central rise, but an improved 3 per cent minimum local productivity bonus, probably consolidated into pay rates from July 1, plus consolidation of 1 per

cent of last year's bonus. Mr Sims' reaction was to condemn the deal as "another of the corporation's dirty tricks," which would enrage the 12 unions on the TUC Steel Committee. But some steelworkers may find it more attractive than taking industrial action, in the face of BSC's refusal to go to arbitration.

Any national pay settlement could pave the way to talks on the South Yorkshire redundancies, because ISTC insists that the two issues are linked.

BSC tubes division agreed yesterday to seek an extension of the Government short-time working compensation scheme at Clydesdale and Imperial works, Scotland, which may save the jobs of 460 workers.

## Redland calls off £35m Istock bid

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

REDLAND, the building materials group, yesterday called off its £35m bid for the Leicester brickmaker Istock Johnson.

The group admitted making its bid partly to foil an earlier bid by lower, agreed offer from London Brick. In addition, the recent improvement in the fortunes of Istock would probably have compelled it to increase the value of its offer.

The surprise announcement prompted Stock Exchange speculation that the group would put in a rival offer for Steeltek, the building materials and heat-resistant products group.

The share price of Steeltek, which is already subject to a £116m bid from Hepworth Ceramics, rose 16p to 232p at one stage but later fell back to 221p.

Mr Robert Napier, finance director of Redland, denied that a bid for Steeltek was planned. While Redland would take advantage of any opportunity to make a worthwhile acquisition, he said, it now wanted to concentrate on improving earnings per share.

Redland's equity has increased by about 80 per cent in less than a year following the £117m purchase of Cawoods, the UK fuel distribution and aggregates group, and the payment of £43m for Boston Industries, a U.S. quarry owner.

Any acquisitions are likely to be small, with the U.S. the preferred area of expansion, Mr Napier said.

"We were faced with spending up to nine months of management time in pursuing Redland with the prospect of a very uncertain outcome at the Monopolies Commission and the likelihood we would have to pay more than we envisaged in January."

"The time to buy is when they are coming out of the recession, not when they have had 12 months into better times," he said.

Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, chairman of Istock, said, "Our fortunes have changed. We don't need suitors. We have disposed of our Dutch company, which was a major headache and everything looks rather different."

London Brick, which started the bidding for Istock with a £27m agreed offer in December, said it would continue to argue its case before the Monopolies Commission, but this did not mean it would renew its bid, assuming it is finally cleared.

"Our original offer is no longer a valid price of paper," said Mr Michael Wright, managing director of London Brick. "Clearly you have to make a new offer in appropriate terms. We will decide whether to make an offer when the commission has reported."

Redland has 4 per cent stake of the overall UK brick market and Istock 7 per cent. Together, they would have formed far less of a market force than any Istock link with London Brick, which has 39 per cent.

However, both Redland and Istock have a sizeable share of the market for the more expensive non-Fleeton facing bricks and it is this which has persuaded Redland to pull out.

Stockbroking analysts said a Redland bid for Steeltek made sense in terms of the latter's building materials interests. One noted, however, that Steeltek faces problems in other areas of its activities. Another said that such a bid would also be likely to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Istock Johnson's shares closed 8p lower at 125p while Redland fell 5p to 250p. London Brick was 1p lower at 132p. Building material sales up. Page 3.

## State backs second genetic company

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN is about to give birth to a second state-sponsored genetic engineering company, similar to Celltech, the pharmaceutical research company which has exclusive rights to exploit certain work by the Government's Medical Research Council.

Celltech's "country cousin" will have similar rights where the work of the Agricultural Research Council is concerned.

The new high-technology venture, 18 months in gestation, is developing as a tripartite operation with two-thirds of the funds coming from the private sector and the remainder from the state. Celltech is 44 per cent state funded.

Founders of the new organisation, possibly with roughly equal shareholdings, are expected to be Ultramar, the oil group; Advent, a venture capital company with access to U.S. UK and other European money; and the British Technology Group, which is an agency of the Department of Industry.

Provisionally, the venture is being called the Agricultural Genetics Company, or AGC, but executives say they hope to think of a more pleasing name.

They are confident that after a long search involving many embarrassing rejections, they have secured the services of a top-flight chief executive.

He is understood to be an expatriate Briton, anxious to return, with a relevant academic

and technical background for a high-technology venture and extensive U.S. business experience. This includes returning a large company to profitability.

British Technology Group officials are sufficiently confident of securing his services and of arranging satisfactory financing to submit papers to industry ministers.

Initial finance is expected to be £15m, a figure reached by increasing the £12m found for Celltech in 1980 by an allowance for inflation. Shareholders are unlikely, however, to agree to commit all the capital at the start of the venture.

One of the most difficult challenges facing the new company will be to repeat the

success of Celltech in winning the confidence of government scientists, so that discoveries in genetic engineering are transferred smoothly to industrial laboratories.

Sir James Gowans, secretary of the Medical Research Council and an eminent medical scientist, is a board member of Celltech and one of the company's most enthusiastic advocates.

The new venture is expected to have right of first refusal to all genetic engineering developments made by the Agricultural Research Council, whose research programme involved expenditure of almost £100m in 1981-82.

Success of Celltech in winning the confidence of government scientists, so that discoveries in genetic engineering are transferred smoothly to industrial laboratories.

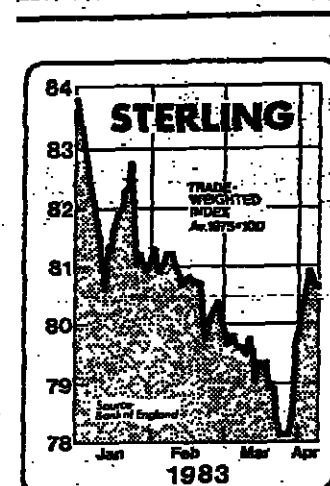
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## THE LEX COLUMN

Hanson trusts  
in the future

Index rose 2.8 to 675.0



Hanson Trust is not the kind of predator to underplay its hand, and yesterday it gave its prospects of winning the bid battle for UDS a strong boost by coming out with the forecast of a hefty profit increase in the current year. The revised offer document—which emerged, as all the important developments in the UDS saga seem to have done, well into Friday evening—states that pre-tax profits will rise by 84 per cent to £75m.

In the first five months the gain has been nearer 56 per cent, so on the surface Hanson seems to be leaving a good deal in hand. This gain has been flattered by contributions from the recent acquisitions, British Ever Ready and UGI, not seen in the comparable period, and the underlying improvement may be running very close to the forecast. By looking a clear seven months into the future Hanson is displaying great confidence that the economic recovery now being seen in the UK and U.S. will be sustained.

The forecast also demonstrates Hanson's determination to carry off the UDS prize, as well as a clear preference for using shares rather than cash in payment. Hanson's share price seems set to move comfortably above last night's 186p close, widening the 2½p premium of the main paper offer over the cash alternative. With Basil Shaw's final offer stranded at 130p, the UDS camp will have great difficulty in not plumping for Hanson.

With its football proposal, however, Telelector stepped away from this formula into a scheme, requiring, advertising revenues to support it: assuming annual running costs of just £3m and as many as 5,000 screens, the £8m contract offered to the League would need revenues of £40, for each outlet per Monday night, to break even. This looks ambitious beside Telelector's advertising experience to date. The danger for London and Liverpool may be, also, that its proposal will focus closer attention on the advertising appeal of its screens which could prompt worrying questions for the publicans, not to mention Lloyds and Scottish.

## London &amp; Liverpool

The hard-pressed financiers of the Football League may have been having some serious second thoughts about the likely reception for pub football, to judge from their extended talks yesterday. If so, they might be arriving late in the day at a rather shrewd assessment of the drawbacks to the scheme than London and Liverpool Trust has shown in proposing it.

London and Liverpool's shares have rocketed from 184p in mid-November to a 700p high in February, propelled by market excitement over the company's projected profits from its Telelector subsidiary which installs the big television screens. The prospect for short term profits has indeed been remarkable, whatever the uncertainties clouding the longer term, and the number of installations has grown rapidly.

Above all, Telelector rejoices in an enviable business arrangement with a leading subsidiary of Lloyds and Scottish. It can take immediate and sizeable

profits on its screens, by first leasing the finished installation and then selling it together, typically, with two to five years of lease payments, to Lloyds and Scottish. Equipment bought for £4m has apparently been sold for over £12m to date, adding perhaps £3m after operating costs to London and Liverpool's underlying profits estimated at £4.5m in the year to March 31.

With its football proposal, however, Telelector stepped away from this formula into a scheme, requiring, advertising revenues to support it: assuming annual running costs of just £3m and as many as 5,000 screens, the £8m contract offered to the League would need revenues of £40, for each outlet per Monday night, to break even. This looks ambitious beside Telelector's advertising experience to date. The danger for London and Liverpool may be, also, that its proposal will focus closer attention on the advertising appeal of its screens which could prompt worrying questions for the publicans, not to mention Lloyds and Scottish.

## Gilt-edged

The Government is in some danger of being carried away with its enthusiasm for the presently dormant corporate bond market. To steer clear of the long end of the gilt-edged market in order to stimulate corporate activity is one thing, but to judge from the recent funding exercises of the Government Broker, nobles oblige is now extending across the bulk of the maturity spectrum.

Yesterday saw the arrival of yet another conventional stock maturing in the late 1980s: £1bn of 10½ per cent Treasury

1989. Its launch brings the number of outstanding gilt-edged stocks up to a round 100 and the authorities might have perhaps celebrated the centenary with a little more imagination.

The yield curve is admittedly peaking in the intermediate area of the market at present but the cost of funds does not seem to have been the overriding consideration in this case. Merely by bringing the maturity forward to 1988, the authorities could probably have saved themselves about 35 basis points of gross redemption yield.

The emphasis on the late 1980s looks all the odder as yesterday's issue is tailor-made for the building societies, possibly the only category of gilt-edged investor a little strapped for cash at the moment. The encouragement being given to corporate issuers is wholly commendable but, as matters now stand, it looks as if the Government Broker would find the FSBR through index-linked six-month Treasury Bills if it indicated its latestest in raising one-year money through a yearling. In their defence, the corporate sector, the authorities risk creating distortions within their primary area of responsibility—the gilt-edged market.

## Turner &amp; Newall

Sir Francis Tombs, the new chairman of Turner & Newall, has obviously learnt a thing or two about negotiation from his long spell in the public sector. Hard on the heels of his remarkable share option arrangement with the Prudential comes the news, in his chairman's statement, of an even more unusual scheme by which the company's bankers will pay him a fee linked to the share price performance of T & N.

Sir Francis has quite properly disclosed this agreement, even though not obliged to do so. The circumstances of T & N's reconstruction were very unusual but it would be unfortunate if this deal set any precedent. Banks, after all, have a vested interest in seeing their own exposure to troubled companies reduced through the issue of equity to shareholders, the feasibility of which is determined by the share price. As it happens, the share-price performance of T & N may well be ruled principally by the future level of asbestos claims, a matter almost wholly out of Sir Francis's hands.

Continued from Page 1

## FT man ordered out

staff and there are 105 Russians at organisations such as Aero-Flot. There are 58 Britons at the British Embassy in Moscow.

Mr Owen, the FT editor, last night expressed regret that Mr Robinson had become the victim of an affair "which is nothing to do with him or this newspaper."

He told a Press conference that he did not consider the affair a fait accompli and was making every effort to ensure Mr Robinson was able to continue working in Moscow. "As far as we are concerned he is our Moscow correspondent and we have no intention of replacing him."

In a statement issued earlier he said: "I deeply regret the sudden and arbitrary action by the Soviet Union against the Financial Times' Moscow corres-

pondent, Mr Anthony Robinson. I ask the Soviet authorities to reconsider their decision with the utmost urgency."

"Anthony Robinson is a professional journalist of the highest calibre in whom the Financial Times has total confidence. The charges made against him are, of course, without foundation."

"He has been the Financial Times' correspondent in Moscow since April 1982. For five years prior to that he was East European correspondent based in London. In this capacity he travelled extensively within Russia and Soviet bloc countries."

"Tony Robinson's regular and incisive coverage of Soviet affairs and of the rapidly developing scene in Eastern Europe, including in Poland, has been of the highest order."

Continued from Page 1

## Shell

Caution about the development of the market in the immediate future, was reflected in Esso's acceptance of the BNOC recommendation which goes no further than approving the rates recommended for February and March. For February, BNOC proposed a price of \$30.50—to which smaller producers without refining interests have objected.

Confidence about the market and Opec price structure was expressed, in an interview published yesterday in London-based Saudi magazine Al-Majall, by Sheikh Ali Khalifa al Sabah, Kuwaiti Minister of Oil, who predicted that it would be possible for Opec to raise its reference price from \$29 to \$30 per barrel in the second half of the year.

## S. African reserves plunge 25%

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE VALUE of South Africa's gold and foreign exchange reserves plunged by almost a quarter last month, according to figures published by the Reserve Bank yesterday. Foreign exchange holdings dropped by more than 50 per cent, the largest fall in a single month.

Total reserves declined by R1.1bn during March to R3.7bn (£2.3bn) equivalent to almost three months' imports.

A reduction in the market-related valuation of the bank's gold holdings accounted for R389m of the fall. The gold holdings, amounting to some 7.7m ounces, were valued at R3.1bn at the end of March making up 85 per cent of total reserves.

Foreign exchange holdings tumbled by R878m to R546m. The sharp fall in the reserves was received with equanimity

by the authorities, who view it as a direct, and to some extent desirable, result of the abolition of exchange controls over foreigners earlier this year.

A senior Reserve Bank official said yesterday that "from a liquidity point of view, it's a healthy situation."

The loss of reserves seems to have been caused mainly by an outflow on the capital account. With the gold price at its present level of between \$420 and \$430 an ounce, the current account is roughly in balance.

A large chunk of the outflow appears to be the result of the sustained selling of gold and other mining shares from abroad on the Johannesburg stock exchange during March.

Analysts estimate these sales at between R350m and R500m. Before the lifting of exchange controls over non-residents, these funds would have flowed

out through the financial rand market which was on a fixed pool of funds and had no impact on the balance of payments.

Repayment of medium-term loans and transfer credits appears to have bolstered the drain of capital, although many companies continue to finance trade credits from offshore sources.

The Reserve Bank's lack of concern at the fall in the reserves is reflected in its decision to leave the managed exchange rate of the rand virtually unchanged over the past few weeks at between 81 and 92 U.S. cents.

Should pressure on the reserves increase, however, the rand is likely to weaken and the authorities will begin to make use of several hundred million rands of foreign loans arranged shortly before exchange control relaxations.

## Weather

UK TODAY

DEPRESSION moving towards SW. Sunny periods and showers.

S. England, Channel Isles Rain, sleet, sunny intervals. Frost overnight. Max 11C (52F).

Midland, N. England, Wales, Isle of Man, N. Ireland, E. and C. Scotland

Sunny periods, isolated showers, light wind.

NE Scotland, Orkney and Shetland

Frequent wintry showers, rather cold.

Outlook: Little change.

## WORLDWIDE

	Y'day	today	Y'day	today
	°C	°F	°C	°F
Algeria	16	61	16	61
Algeria	16	61	16	61
Amman	21	70	21	70
Athens	18	64	18	64
Bahrain	27	81	27	81
Bombay	22	72	22	72
Buenos Aires	19	66	19	66
Calcutta	28	82	28	82
Cairo	22	72	22	72
Cardiff	9	48	9	48
Cebu	28	82	28	82
Colon	28	82	28	82
Copenhagen	10	50	10	50
Dublin	10	50	10	50
Edinburgh	10	50	10	50
Frankfurt	10	50	10	50
Geneva	10	50	10	50
Hamburg	10	50	10	50
Helsinki	10	50	10	50
London	10	50	10	50
Los Angeles	10	50	10	50
Madrid	10	50	10	50
Moscow	10	50	10	50
Munich	10	50	10	50
Nairobi	10	50	10	50
Paris	10	50	10	50
Rangoon	10	50	10	50
Rome	10	50	10	50
Singapore	10	50	10	50
Tokyo	10	50	10	50
Warsaw	10	50	10	50
Zurich	10	50	10	50

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